Daily Report

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Amazon Pact Presidents Sign Manaus Declaration

PY1402225892 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Feb 92 p 13

[Manaus Declaration signed by the Amazon Pact presidents on 10 February in Manaus, Brazil]

[Text] Meeting in Manaus on 10 and 11 February 1992 with the purpose of evaluating the topics of the UN Conference on Environment and Development, the presidents of the Amazon countries have adopted the following:

Declaration of Manaus on the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

1. We are convinced that a planet that is environmentally healthy must equal a socially and economically just world. It is essential that the manner and models of development and the guidelines of untenable consumerism must be transformed in order to achieve this objective.

2. In our countries, the prerequisite of economic and social development must run parallel to the preservation and protection of the environment through the promotion of strategies for the sustainable use of natural resources and through respect for the right of the people to a better quality of life. Consequently, we reaffirm the right of our countries to use their own resources to ensure their welfare and progress.

3. We reaffirm the importance of education and public awareness, and therefore we commit ourselves to fully support the efforts to increase public awareness and commitment in the matter of healthy environmental practices. We also commit ourselves to strengthen environmental education and urge the international community to support this action.

4. We reaffirm our conviction that the international guidelines for production, consumerism, and distribution are at the root of the environmental problems of developing countries, mainly the deterioration of the ecosystems and the poverty to which the majority of humanity has been condemned.

5. It is acknowledged that the developed countries have had the greatest responsibility in the progressive deterioration of the environment, thus they cannot impose ecological controls and conditions on developing countries.

6. Underdevelopment is the fundamental cause of the serious deterioration of the environment. Therefore, the solution to environmental problems is closely linked to a transformed attitude of international cooperation that will lead to the expansion of financial resources, a greater access to technology, an expansion of trade flows, and to measures to resolve the foreign debt problem.

7. Urgent internal measures to eliminate poverty will not be sufficient if international cooperation based on new principles cannot be counted on.

8. The overcoming of the current environmental dilemma also requires a conscious and decisive effort by states and individuals that must rise above the simple logic of the market forces.

9. Since the signing of the Treaty of Amazon Cooperation on 3 July 1978, our countries assumed a profound and broad commitment to combine actions to achieve harmonious development within the region that is clearly conceived and defined in the treaty. This singular commitment now has allowed our countries to obtain a wide range of possibilities to achieve endurable development goals in the region.

10. We acknowledge the rights of the indigenous populations and their contribution to the preservation of the environment. We believe that a greater participation in this effort by these populations would be positive. In this respect, we are adopting significant measures, highlighting the dire effort to respect the rights of the indigenous populations over their land in accordance with national legislation.

11. We have decided to continue exerting all our efforts to preserve the planet's largest native jungle and its sustained development through the application of resources we have in hand.

12. Therefore, we reaffirm the principles and purposes of the 6 May 1989 Declaration of Manaus in which our countries consigned their common interests in the Amazon region, especially on the future of cooperation for development and preservation of that heritage.

13. We also reaffirm that this undertaking will not be sufficient without international cooperation to support the efforts that have been carried out by our countries in the undertaking of their responsibilities and the exercise of their sovereignty.

14. We reiterate our willingness to strengthen subregional and bilateral cooperation to prevent environmental damage and to attend to its consequences.

15. The UN Conference on Environment and Development will be a historic opportunity to begin a new global relation on the basis of financial and technological programs that will allow developing countries to expand their efforts to preserve and stimulate the sustained development of their natural resources. Thus our effort in contributing toward its success jointly with other Latin American and Caribbean countries, with whom in 1991 we adopted the Tlaltelolco Platform on Environment and Development.

16. We have agreed to a joint understanding on the conference's main topics. We believe that that agreement will live up to the international community's expectations. That joint understanding contained in the following document encompasses the position that will be our countries' guide in the negotiations to be held prior to the conference.

Amazon Pact Issues Summit Document 11 Feb

PY1502164192 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Feb 92 p 13

["Text" of draft document issued by Amazon Pact Summit in Manaus on 11 February]

[Text] Draft Document on the joint position of Amazon Pact countries in view of the upcoming UN Conference on the Environment and Development [Rio 92].

I. Climatic Changes

1. Current global climatic changes will have an important impact on the environment and the development of Amazon Pact countries, including islands and low coastal areas. We urge developed countries, which are preeminently responsible for the concentration of all gases causing the greenhouse effect, to adopt specific measures to revert this trend.

2. Negotiations carried out within the framework of a convention on climatic changes constitute a unique opportunity for the international community to achieve commitments to revert the current trend of the concentration of gases causing the greenhouse effect. Developed and developing countries will necessarily have to adopt different commitments, but these should not affect the economic interests of the latter. Developing countries will be able to fully support current efforts made at the international level to safeguard the climate only if they are assured necessary technological and financial resources that will allow them to adopt the new model of sustained development.

3. Each country must achieve an energy model that is best suited to its needs and those of the international community. The required adaptations lead to changes of life and consumer patterns that are untenable by future generations.

II. Biodiversity and Biotechnology

1. Biological resources are indisputably the natural resources of each country; and therefore, they fall under the sovereign jurisdiction of each country. It is necessary to promote immediately the conservation and sustained exploitation of biodiversities. These activities must be implemented by countries which must also promote the basis for international cooperation ruled by intergovernmental agreements.

2. The rights of countries having biodiversities, and particularly genetic resources, must be recognized. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary to adopt and respect proper systems of regulation, registry, and control.

3. The cooperation between developed countries and those rich in biological resources is necessary, particularly to encourage local research institutions. National data collection, research, and monitoring efforts must have the support of the international community.

4. In addition to their mere conservation, greater emphasis must be granted to the use and sustained development of these resources in order to maximize and increase their benefits.

5. The conservation of biodiversities must be done in an integral manner, prioritizing protected areas and economic and zoological zones. Regional cooperation in this regard is very important. An excellent example is the ecological and economic zoning program planned and developed within the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

6. Research in location in the countries of origin and outside locations in particular must be supported and encouraged. In addition, international cooperation is necessary to support genetic banks.

7. Biodiversity and biotechnology are intrinsically related and constitute a clear opportunity to implement sustained development. Biotechnology relies to a great extent on the conservation of genetic and biological resources, particularly in developing countries rich in fauna and flora.

8. It is necessary to value and protect traditional methods and the knowledge of indigenous population groups. Their participation in the economic and commercial benefits resulting from the exploitation of biodiversities is necessary to guarantee economic and social development.

9. We have an unequivocal interest in the success of negotiations to hold a convention on biodiversities. This convention must reflect the interrelation between the access to biodiversified resources and the access to the biotechnology that derives from it, and to the technology needed for the conservation of biodiversity.

10. Access to biodiversified resources must necessarily encompass biotechnological, wild, and cultivated resources. International cooperation is needed to achieve the local development of biotechnological research in countries with biological resources.

III. Rain Forests

1. The international debate on rain forests must take into account that these ecosystems are encompassed in territories that fall under the jurisdiction of countries that exercise their full sovereignty over them. It is up to these countries to issue legislation on these spaces and their use based on national priorities.

2. Any global position on rain forest resources must necessarily include all types of rain forests, without discrimination.

3. In addition to its purely environmental aspects, it is essential to recognize the importance of the rain forest as an economic, cultural, and social space. The interaction of these elements are indivisible, complex, and all-encompassing. Rain forest policies constitute an important development strategy in our countries.

4. The economic dimension of rain forests is part of the national patrimony. This encompasses mineral reserves, energy sources, tourism potential, and possible human settlements for productive activities. Their social and cultural dimension affect the quality of life of the population groups, be they indigenous or not, which rely on it for their sustenance and cultural development.

5. The international community must fully support national efforts striving to promote development models for the sustained exploition of the rain forest.

6. The encouragement of the economic exploitation of native rain forests must be emphasized in view of its positive effects in environmental, social, and economic terms. But to do this it is necessary to have opportune and sufficient access to the market of diverse products derived from the rain forest.

7. The management of forests should reconcile the imperative need to enhance their economic value—to the benefit of people—and proper environmental preservation, in order to guarantee that the communities directly dependent on forests may attain decent levels of social well-being. In this regard, developing countries have specific needs that should be taken into account for the decisions to be made by the UN Environment and Development Conference.

8. Economic activities in forest areas can be made consistent with the preservation and protection of natural resources and the environment. Consequently, countries should develop strategies for the profitable use of forests, and their products should have access to markets in order to guarantee sustained development.

9. Those strategies should seek to coordinate short-term actions and long-term prospects reflecting future possibilities. The concept of a cost-benefit balance should be broadened in order to include social justice, more technological efficiency in productive processes, natural resources preservation, respect for cultural traditions of the local population, and respect for the knowledge of the traditional use of the forest.

IV. Soil Degradation

1. Reversing the increasingly intense soil degradation processes, such as erosion and the formation of deserts, and preventing this problem has become an increasingly important target. Inappropriate rural development processes, the use of inadequate technology, and disorderly land occupation processes have had a strong environmental impact, which has harmed farm production. This has jeopardized developing countries' food supply.

2. It is essential to fight drought and to preserve river basins through joint development of soil and water resources, and through preservation of the flora.

3. It is necessary to promote the occupation of land in keeping with its environmental features and its development potential, which depend on scientific and technical developments. It is necessary to note the importance of taking preventive and corrective action in the areas destined for preservation. It is also essential to undertake the same actions in productive areas.

V. Water Resources

1. Healthy management of water resources—from the viewpoint of the environment—is essential for the preservation of the ecosystem, the protection of health, and the improvement of the people's well-being.

2. It is necessary to recognize that there is an essential relationship between water resources management and the preservation of sea and land ecosystems, and between biodiversity and the rational use of soil. Consequently, profitable water resource development programs should be designed at a local, national, regional, and world level, along with provisions for their implementation.

3. In this regard, national and regional measures for organization, preservation, and joint management of river basins play a major role. These measures are essential for the proper use of water resources as a source of productive activities such as irrigation, fishing, power generation, and transportation, for controlling polluting agents, adopting measures for prevention and control of environmentally harmful factors, and for preserving the people's health.

4. The people's standard of living is closely linked with the provision of drinking water of an appropriate quality and quantity. Therefore, specific water supply targets should be set for the next decade, within a specific timetable.

5. Institutional training, the provision of information to society, the promotion of receptivity within society, education, and the availability of financial resources are preconditions for joint management of water resources. The national efforts for the joint management of river basins should be acknowledged and should receive cooperation from the international community.

VI. Toxic and Dangerous Residues

1. Toxic and dangerous residues should be stored or eliminated where they are produced. Countries should have appropriate technology for the environmentally safe manipulation of such residues.

2. In order to properly tackle this problem, negotiations over a protocol to the Basle Convention should be concluded as soon as possible. The protocol should establish appropriate procedures with respect to responsibility and compensation payment for damages caused by handling dangerous residues or by moving them across borders.

3. It is also necessary to examine, in light of the Basle Convention, the norms, regulations, and practices in connection with the discharging of dangerous residues

into the sea, in order to recommend additional measures—within the framework of the Convention—for preventing pollution of the sea by dropping residues and other substances into it. (London, 29 December 1972)

4. In addition, it is essential for the international community to implement the mechanisms established through UN Resolution 44/226, with regard to the illegal trafficking of toxic residues and products, in order to control and report such trafficking.

VII. Institutional Consolidation

1. The consolidation of institutions, which is a precondition for promoting sustained development, should aim at reconciling—in an increasingly active manner—economic decisions and environment preservation strategies. Both international organizations and states should overcome institutional divergencies in these two areas. This should become one of the main factors for innovation in the consideration of environmental and developmental matters.

2. We maintain that the strengthening of national institutions for the promotion of sustained development is a priority objective. We also emphasize the importance of strengthening regional institutions. International cooperation is the unequivocal foundation for the preservation and rational use of natural resources.

3. In general terms, creative formulas should be devised so that the United Nations may have stronger and more efficient mechanisms for enforcement of the decisions of the UN Environment and Development Conference. Developing countries should become actively engaged in the scheduling and implementation of such decisions, in order to make sure that they will conform to their priority targets. In this regard, the institutions above should be able to support—in keeping with the specific needs of each country—the measures and programs that each country implements with a view toward achieving sustained development.

VIII. Settlements

1. The problems affecting urban life also have world dimension, because the consequences of such problems reach beyond the borders of nations. Over the past 20 years, industrialized countries—in general terms—have improved living conditions in their cities through large investments and new technology. In developing countries, however, the situation has reached a critical level, which has serious and unpredictable consequences. The UN Environment and Development Conference should design a program for specific action, as part of the Agenda 21, in order to change this situation in developing countries.

2. The Agenda 21 settlement programs should include access to basic services such as sanitation, housing, drinking water, security, power supply, and transportation. Within that context, those services should also be provided to the urban peripheral area and to rural settlements. Housing should be provided to the population without an income and to those in extreme poverty.

3. It is necessary to develop means that can make it possible to educate and inform society and to make it understand such problems as abandoned minors, the elimination and manipulation of home and industrial leftovers, unemployment, violence, disorderly occupation of land, development and lack of basic sanitary services. It is necessary to train professionals to properly tackle such problems.

4. For implementation of the necessary initiatives in this area, it is essential for developing countries to count on additional funds supplied through international cooperation.

IX. Local and Indigenous Population and Communities

1. As part of the effort to improve the living standards of the population and of indigenous and local communities, it is necessary to acknowledge the value of their traditional practices for promoting sustained development. To achieve this, mechanisms should be created for the preservation of the knowledge found within their traditions, and for compensating for the seizure and commercial use of that knowledge. It is therefore necessary to establish conditions for their self-development, support the development of sustainable alternative production methods of their own, and strengthen national institutional mechanisms in order to promote their development and protect and preserve their habitat.

2. It is equally important to guarantee respect for the rights of indigenous communities and local communities, in order to preserve their cultural traditions. National efforts for promoting sustained development in those communities—with international technical and financial support—are essential, especially within the context of the International Year of the Indigenous People, which will be celebrated in 1993.

X. Financial Resources

1. The attainment of the objective of integrating environment and development calls for a new attitude in international cooperation. Such a new attitude is based on the understanding that developed and developing countries are working for the same cause, and that the economic and environmental reward of that partnership will benefit both developed and developing nations.

2. To reach that common objective, however, nations have extremely unequal financial capacities and abilities. Consequently, developing countries are subject to many restrictions when trying to join world efforts.

3. Industrialized countries have a historical responsibility for the worldwide deterioration of the environment, which today can no longer be justified. For this reason, and because of their economic and financial capability, they will have to take a proportionately bigger responsibility for implementation of the sustained development process.

4. Therefore, additional financial resources are necessary, in conditions that are appropriate for developing countries, so that they may fulfill their obligation to preserve the environment and promote development.

5. The serious foreign debt problem affecting developing countries should be resolved, because it jeopardizes their capacity to enforce policies and measures that are essential for a sustained development strategy.

6. Protectionist barriers against international trade, either traditional or nontariff restrictions based on environmental claims, should be lifted. On the other hand, it will be necessary to increase the value of natural resources, assigning to them prices that conform to their value.

7. The new financial resources should be channelled through appropriate institutional organs that should take into account concession credits, elimination of preconditions, compatibility with the priority targets of recipient countries, and harmonious treatment of development and environmental matters. In addition, such resources should meet, in an environmentally healthy manner, the socioeconomic development needs of the people of developing countries.

8. The designation of representatives to those organs, and their operation, should be equitably distributed between developed and developing countries. Based on all those reasons, it is necessary to understand that the financial mechanism known as the Global Environmental Facility [three preceding words in English] is clearly limited and insufficient. It is essential to create a mechanism that can help countries implement the guidelines and programs of the Agenda 21, thus promoting sustained development. Likewise, the multilateral legal instruments being negotiated should include their own financial mechanisms, and they should have the above features.

IX. Technology Transfer

1. It is necessary to effectively consolidate new transfer mechanisms through which developing countries may acquire appropriate environmental technology. Because of the financial and institutional restrictions in developing countries, the transfer of such technology should be made on preferential terms—rather than on purely commercial terms—taking into account the responsibility that developing countries have for the deterioration of the environment, and taking into account the international community's desire to preserve the environment worldwide. The transfer of new environmentally appropriate technology to developing countries is a precondition for fulfillment of the commitments on the environment and on development, which will be established within the context of the UN Environment and Development Conference, and within the context of the agreements being negotiated for the preservation of biodiversity and on climatic change.

2. It is also important to increase the capacity of states and the region, not only for acquiring the technologies that are most appropriate from the viewpoint of the environment, but also in the field of scientific research and for developing local technology. Developed countries should urgently support such efforts, both bilaterally and multilaterally.

Statement Asks for Changes to Tlaltelolco Treaty

PY1502223292 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Feb 92 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—Brazil and Argentina have sent to the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America [Opanal]—which functions as a secretariat of the Tlaltelolco Treaty in Mexico and controls the proliferation of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean—a joint statement with proposals to change that document. One of the amendments to the Tlaltelolco Treaty involves improving the system of information supplied by the signatory countries in order to prevent the duplication of explanations already given to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The statement was sent to Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who will chair the Opanal conference that will be held to mark the 25th anniversary of the treaty.

In the text, President Carlos Menem and President Fernando Collor reiterate the actions of the two countries in the field of nuclear control such as the creation of the Brazilian-Argentine Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials Agency [Agencia Brasil-Argentina de Contabilidade e Controle de Materiais Nucleares], the agreement on safeguards, and compliance with the rules outlined in the Tlaltelolco Treaty.

Trade Among Andean Pact Countries Increases

PY1402024492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1912 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Summary] La Paz, 12 Feb (EFE)—Trade among the Andean Pact countries amounted to $1.788 billion in 1991, a 35 percent increase in comparison with 1990, the Cooperation with Bolivia Program has reported. Bolivian exports to the Andean group increased by 45.6 percent, while its total exports to the rest of the world dropped by 3 percent. Bolivia increased soy bean exports to Colombia from $4 million in 1990 to $33 million in 1991.

Latin American Parliament To Meet in May

PY1402014292 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 13 Feb 92 p 6

[Summary] Chamber of Deputies Chairman Jose Antonio Moreno Rufinelli, who is vice president of the Latin American Parliament—Parlatino—has reported that the board, consultant council, and subcommissions of this organization recently decided in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, that their next meeting will be held

in Asuncion in May. During this meeting the Parlatino members will decide on the dedication of the organization's headquarters in Sao Paulo on 25 September. Senator Carlos Augusto Saldivar, a member of the Parlatino consultant council, has reported that the presidents of all Parlatino member countries will be invited to the dedication ceremony.

Cuba

Sergeant Wounded in Tarara Base Incident Dies

PA1602170292 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] First Sergeant Rolando Perez Quintosa died on 16 February at the Luis Diaz Soto Higher Institute of Medicine in Havana where he was admitted on 9 January after confronting a group of counterrevolutionaries who tried to steal a vessel from the Tarara Naval Base to head for the United States.

Perez Quintosa was the sole survivor of the incident in which policeman Yuri Gomez, border guard Orosman Duenas Valera, and guard Rafael Guevara Borges died.

During the action, Perez Quintosa received several shots all over his body. Despite the seriousness of his wounds, he testified and helped identify and arrest the perpetrators of the attack.

From the very beginning, the 23-year-old Cuban combatant was treated by a multidisciplinary group of specialists who launched an important medical effort to save his life. During his hospitalization, Perez Quintosa was granted the status of member of the Communist Party of Cuba and was elected delegate to the Sixth Congress of the Union of Young Communists in recognition of his courageous attitude in defense of the fatherland.

The mortal remains of the Cuban combatant will be placed next to the base of the Jose Marti Monument on Revolution Square in the Cuban capital to allow the people to pay their last respects.

Castro Presents Awards

FL1702135192 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, posthumously awarded the Gold Star, representing the title Hero of the Republic of Cuba, and the insignia of the July 26 Order, to combatant Rolando Perez Quintosa, whose funeral is scheduled for today at 2100 GMT.

The wife of Perez Quintosa, Maria Cristina Labrada Perez, received both medals during the posthumous awards ceremony held at the base of the Jose Marti Monument in Revolution Square. According to the resolution, both medals were awarded in recognition of the heroic behavior and courage demonstrated by the young soldier during a confrontation with a group of counterrevolutionaries, who were trying to illegally leave the country from the Tarara Naval Base on 6 January.

The people of Havana, representing all Cubans, have been rendering posthumous honor to Perez Quintosa since 2115 GMT 16 February in Revolution Square, and they will continue to do so through 2100 GMT today, when the burial is scheduled to begin.

So that workers can participate in the posthumous homage being paid to Perez Quintosa, the State Committee for Labor and Social Security has announced a work recess in the capital today, Monday, beginning at 1300 local, except for work which is essential to the economy and other basic services.

CDR Issues Communique

FL1702163492 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1426 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Communique from the Committee for the Defense of the Revolution, CDR, on the occasion of the death of Interior Ministry Sergeant Rolando Perez Quintosa, read by announcer from Revolution Square in Havana—live]

[Text] The CDR, upon the death of Comrade Rolando Perez Quintosa, a noncommissioned officer, expresses its most heartfelt sorrow to the family members of the Hero of the Republic of Cuba, who courageously gave his life to thwart the activities which counterrevolutionists tried to perpetrate on 9 January at the Tarara Naval Base, where three other of his heroic companions were also brutally murdered and where he received the wounds which caused his death.

We render posthumous tribute to the glorious son of the nation who rests here at the base of the Jose Marti Monument in Revolution Square. This ceremony, which calls us together for the death of the distinguished member of the Ministry of the Interior [Minint], is also an opportune moment for reflection. Those truly responsible for the death of our comrade are the same ones who, since the beginning of the triumph of the revolution, began a campaign to destroy its accomplishments. They are the ones who organized the Bay of Pigs invasion, counterrevolutionary groupings, the campaigns of terror, the embargo, and who have been encouraged by the recent events which caused the disappearance of the socialist camp in Europe.

Comrades, during this posthumous recognition by all our people for our fallen brother, who offered the most precious thing he had in defense of the revolution, and with the pain, indignation, and anger which overflows from the heart of a heroic people for such an irreparable loss, we energetically condemn the U.S. Government and all those who organize, encourage, or justify actions so abominable and who have not stopped trying to force us to renounce our people's decision to continue on the road that we have overwhelmingly chosen for more than 30 years.

Today's visit, to the remains of our comrades, who fell in the completion of their duties, cannot be seen as anything but a firm commitment by the Cuban people to continue defending their revolution with the conviction that with freedom from the limits and difficulties which are imposed on us, we will be victorious.

We support the heroes and martyrs of the country, who through their example give us renewed strength in the all-out battle against the criminals and enemies of the revolution. Together with the heroic combatants of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Minint, we will know how to defend, with the same patriotism, the work they have bequeathed us; for what it represents to our people and because it constitutes a beam of hope for all the people of the world in their struggle for a better life.

We reaffirm our support for the socialist option, the party, and our invincible commander in chief. We express our firm decision to save the nation, the revolution, and socialism to Rolando Perez Quintosa and all the heroes of the nation.

Signed: National Secretariat of the CDR.

ANAP Issues Communique

FL1702161692 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1406 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Communique from the National Association of Small Farmers, ANAP, on the occasion of the death of Interior Ministry Sergeant Rolando Perez Quintosa, read by announcer from Revolution Square in Havava—live]

[Text] The peasants of Cuba, upon learning of the death of combatant Rolando Perez Quintosa, express their sorrow and, with profound anger, condemn with all their vigor this premeditated crime and demand the harshest punishment for the counterrevolutionary murderers to set an example.

The nation is once again in mourning. A true hero has died. This courageous youth, 23 years old, resisted death, resisted abandoning his people, who from the first moment of learning of the criminal counterrevolutionary acts at Tarara, hoped he would live. They recognized his extraordinary merits, and while crying for his fallen comrades, expressed an energetic rejection and deep hatred for the repugnant acts perpetrated by the murderers. Our people, courageous and energetic, are crying again today and their tears of pain and anger will fall upon both those who directly committed this cruel massacre, and upon those who encourage actions of this kind and receive those who betray their country and murder their children as heroes.

The empire cannot evade its responsibility, since for more than 30 years it has been hostile to our people. It has encouraged attacks, aggressive actions, and murders of these types. It has maintained a brutal crusade against the revolution. It has treated murderers, thieves, henchmen, and all the anarchists who abandon their country as heroes.

Further on, the ANAP message states: the sadness that we feel today is converted to hatred and anger against those that encourage and commit these crimes and it stimulates our daily attitude in defense of the accomplishments of the revolution. That is why, on a day like today, all the peasantry joins with our people who are full of pain and anger. They demand justice because murders like those committed against the Interior Ministry combatants, and which caused the death of Rolando, cannot be left unpunished. The force of revolutionary justice must fall with all its weight, without vacillation, upon the guilty.

We are involved in the heroic battle of saving the nation, the revolution, and socialism; committed with the party and Fidel, and in decisive moments such as this one, our men of the fields express that their hands will not falter, neither in grasping the plow nor the gun, if it is necessary, to fight enemies at home or abroad.

Rolando Perez Quintosa, rest in peace. Your unselfish and courageous people will never fail you and they will carry the revolution for which you died forward to the end. Eternal glory to the heroes of the nation. Socialism or death. Fatherland or death. We will win!

Signed by the National ANAP Directorate.

Supreme People's Tribunal Upholds Death Sentences

FL1702133792 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The Supreme People's Tribunal has upheld the death sentence imposed by the Havana City Provincial Court against Luis Miguel Almeida Perez and Rene Salmeron Mendoza accused of piracy and murder in the Tarara Naval Base incident where three Interior Ministry soldiers were killed and First Sergeant Rolando Perez Quintosa was seriously injured.

Perez Quintosa died Saturday night at midnight as a result of the wounds he received at that time.

The highest Cuban court rejected the writs of appeal submitted on behalf of the accused and, in compliance with the provisions of Article 488 of the law on criminal procedure, referred this case to the Cuban State Council.

The State Council is the supreme authority which can commute or ratify the death penalty against the men condemned to die.

Commentary on Elimination of Food Subsidies

FL1502142292 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 15 Feb 92

["Our Opinion" commentary]

[Text] In today's GRANMA, on the third page, there is an article signed by my colleague Raisa Pages entitled "Adjustment of Agricultural Prices to Production Costs," which I think reflects a sensible, realistic, and necessary measure for introducing some order into our finances and economy in the midst of the enormous difficulties imposed on us not only by the embargo but also by the dramatic changes in our foreign trade brought

about by the collapse of socialism in Europe and the real conditions of the international markets.

This measure has to do with gradually adjusting the prices of agricultural products to their production costs; or in other words, gradually eliminating the extremely high state subsidies for these products. In 1991, last year, the report I am referring to specifies that the country's financial system spent more than 447 million pesos on subsides for nonsugarcane agriculture. The report confirms that this sum does not include expenses for distribution; that is, transportation, etc.

The production costs of our agriculture include components in hard currency—seeds, pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, fuel, etc.—and also in wages. These wages are now being tied to the final results obtained in production. As a consequence, continuing to maintain indiscriminate and massive subsidies would increase the currency in circulation. This harms even more the real value of the peso, hinders financial reordering, and does not contribute, under the difficult conditions we are experiencing, to organizing an austere but efficient economy. These and other similar measures are necessary for rationalizing our economic management and encouraging well-done and productive work, which would result in specific products that go to the markets; not figures, I repeat, but specific products.

These rational measures, which have the sole aim of meeting the needs of most of the people to the extent possible with the resources we have, have nothing to do with the simplicity and cruelty of the market economy, where everything is apparently left to the market to regulate, and thus only a small part of society can consume to excess and the rest are left without. Thus, with a market economy—and there are all too many facts and too much evidence of this throughout the world—the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

With these measures—the ones being adopted here with our economy—no one will get rich. Nor will anyone be left unprotected, and the state's finances and economy in general will become more efficient, to the benefit of the entire community.

President Castro Speaks to Brazilian Delegation

PA1502220892 Havana Cubavision in Spanish 0136 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Speech by President Fidel Castro to a visiting Brazilian delegation at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana on 13 February—recorded]

[Text] Well, I suppose I should say something, right, Frei Betto? First of all, you have brought this country to a halt since you arrived. I think you arrived on Monday?

[Unidentified speaker: "No, Saturday."] I have seen the country brought to a halt. I do not think anyone has worked in these days since this Brazilian delegation arrived. There is so much happiness, festive spirit, and enthusiasm. I see you everywhere. I open a newspaper, and there is the Brazilian delegation. I turn on the television, and the television has them. I talk with someone, and they immediately start talking to me about the Brazilians. I think you are the only people who have worked in these days, Frei Betto; yesterday you did voluntary work, weeding tomatoes. [laughter] I think everything else has come to a halt during these days.

Frei Betto said that he thanked us. I ask: Why? We should really be the ones who have to give thanks. You say it because you have found affection among the people, hospitality. This is natural. If we always welcome all Brazilians with affection, we welcome you with special affection, for many reasons. We feel very close, as a family, with Brazilians. But mainly because we appreciate to an extraordinary degree your solidarity in these difficult times, for the incentive this gives us, the encouragement in this struggle, and what it also means to our people. We will do everything possible to keep this little bit of hope.

As Frei Betto said, Marti asserted that all the glory of the world fits into a kernel of corn. It fits into a kernel of corn. Marti said this because he was not interested in glory. He was interested in duty. But if it is a question of hope, we can say that you only need a kernel of hope to fill the world. Hope is not the same thing as glory. Men have gone without reason after glory and struggles, ambitions, glory. But men have also gone very far and made enormous sacrifices, with justification, for hope. I think that all those who have made sacrifices in this world for a noble cause have made sacrifices for hope. Well, for hope, many of your predecessors also died in Rome and were devoured by lions. Millions and millions of people have given their lives for hope.

You recalled the difficult situations that many peoples are experiencing. You also said a very beautiful phrase. You said that you did not want our future to be like your present. We are going to struggle a lot so that your future may be even better than our present, so that in your future everything you do will be better than what we have done, so that in your future you do not have to fight as alone as we have had to do, with no other support than the support of the people and the honest people, the courageous people of this world. The courage they have is not physical courage but moral courage. But in general to have physical courage you must have moral courage. I think that a moral code is the fundamental pillar of courage.

Our struggles today are to preserve the banner of justice and dignity, to preserve our ideals, to preserve this hope that our struggle [words indistinct] (?will also save you) sacrifices in the future, and so that you will have a more successful future and fewer sacrifices. As you know, other experiences, other attempts collapsed in other places, although the last word has not yet been said, because there can be no action without reaction, just as there can be no revolution without counterrevolution. The setbacks today to just causes or just ideas—it does not matter how badly men have interpreted them or the

mistakes they have made—the setbacks today will become an incentive for the successes of tomorrow.

Up to now, when we are about to celebrate the third anniversary of that collapse, we are here, firm and determined to maintain the revolution's ideas and gains. You understand very well how difficult the economic conditions in which this has left us must be, for reasons beyond our control. When there began to be talk about improving socialism, which has caused the elimination of socialism, they brought us very sweet words—market economy and all those things—instead of saying capitalism, and savage capitalism, primitive capitalism. A group of businessmen is not the same thing as a mafia that wants to play the role of businessmen. I know many businessmen, and we have relations with them, we seek to work together. When some bring capital, technology, markets, there are many forms of agreements.

If there is oil under the sea, we have no capability for looking for oil under the sea. We do not have the technology or capital for seeking that oil. But if someone comes who is interested in seeking the oil, we will become partners in the search for oil. We will do exploration with risk by agreement. That is an example. There are many things we cannot do without technology or capital. There are many things we can do with our resources, technology, and capital. But there are many that we cannot do. So in all these fields, we are seeking forms of cooperation. We have seen a lot of responsible people. But, of course, we have reduced our imports to less than half. Our fuel consumption has been reduced by almost 40 percent.

So that is what we are doing to cope with this situation without a shock policy, the famous shock policy, the policy that throws millions of people out on the streets, men, women, young people, old people. It throws them out (?into poverty). We have not turned to that way of doing things. We guarantee protection, security for everyone. When we do not have enough raw materials for a factory to continue in operation, when a worker does not have enough to do, even when we have no alternative but to send him home, we guarantee him enough income to live. So we are sharing what we have among all of us. Each citizen feels secure.

You can see how in spite of these catastrophic consequences, there is not a single child without a school. There is no child who does not go to school. The universities are still open. The hospitals are still working. There is not a single sick person who does not receive medical care in accordance with the priorities we have established. In spite of all this, not a single citizen has been left unprotected in our country, while the world is living through a wave of savage neoliberalism, which throws people [words indistinct].

I say, they talk so much about human rights, but the most brutal violation of human rights is those shock policies. When they talk about democracy, those who talk so much about democracy, the first thing that must be democratized is the United Nations. Five countries have veto rights, and one of them alone can annul an agreement reached by more than 160 countries. We invite them to democratize the United Nations first of all; today the Security Council has unfortunately become an instrument of hegemony.

I can tell you that we appreciate your views, ideas, and feelings. We appreciate them a lot. What is more, we are seeing who our true friends are at these times. We have all kinds of difficulties to get through—economic, political—we have some difficulties. We are now subject to a double embargo. We hope that these embargoes will disappear. Your solidarity can help a lot in making these embargoes disappear.

This does not mean that if the embargo is lifted, all our problems will be solved, because no one is going to give us anything for free. In our relations with the Western, capitalist world, whatever (?the country), unequal terms of trade prevail. They always sell us everything at high prices, and they pay very little for our products. When the socialist bloc existed, they had fair terms of trade with us. If the prices of the products they sold us increased, the prices of our products increased also. (?Today this is) difficult.

When the revolution triumphed in 1959, 1960, when the United States took away our oil because they controlled it internationally, we could buy seven tons of oil with one ton of sugar. Today we can buy 1.7 or 1.6 or 1.8 tons of oil with one ton of sugar. The terms have changed, because oil has also become a monopoly product. It has acquired a monopoly price. You Brazilians know this very well. You have to devote more than 2 million hectares to sugarcane planting and cut it by hand to produce fuel. How much does it cost to produce one ton of oil from one of those wells? There are some that are very productive, that give thousands of barrels per day. Nevertheless, how many hours of work does it cost to produce one ton of sugar? Possibly 20 or 25 times more than to produce one ton of oil. How many hours of work does it cost to produce one ton of alcohol? Possibly 25 or 30 times more than to produce one ton of oil.

That is why I say that no one is going to give us this for free. These are facts. When we lost the pillar that the socialist bloc and the USSR meant for our economy—because we traded with them, because they did not have raw materials and many things—no one but us could resolve this, really. We have to have a process of adaptation to this kind of unjust trade, and not only a kind of unjust trade with the developed, capitalist world, but a kind of unjust trade with respect to oil. This will force us to make many sacrifices. It demands great efficiency from us. It demands very rigorous ranking of priorities and enormous efforts by us.

I want to say to you that even if the embargo disappears, our work will be made easier. Our work will be made easier. [repeats] In many ways, our path will be made easier, but we have to work very hard and get through a

very difficult phase. It is more difficult with the embargo, but we can get through it. It would be easier to get through without the embargo, but it is difficult. That is our situation, but we are working more than ever. We are trying to do this efficiently.

Perhaps after this period, one day we will have to look back and give thanks for the difficulties we are going through now. Because there are countries out there that have a lot of money, really a lot of money, and every so often there is a social explosion, because of these shock policies. With infinitely fewer resources, we are carrying out a fair distribution of what we have. We are maintaining a very high level of unity and consensus in our country.

I really think that without a system like ours, we could not resist. Because if we did not resist this, what would happen? A counterrevolution would be 10 times worse for the people. No counterrevolution can solve our problems. No one will give this country anything for free, as you are doing. You have brought medicines and those things. The United States invades countries and then is not even able to help them economically. The Americans do not have it, because they themselves need economic help, since now [chuckles] they have a great crisis. Their budget deficit is going to be $400 billion this year. It is like a great pump sucking money from the world.

So we know that whatever we get in the future, we will continue getting under very difficult conditions, with or without an embargo, through our sweat and work. But, well, I think I have talked enough already under the pretext of this small speech, [applause] but Frei Betto, if I do not talk, even if it is only 15 or 20 minutes, they are going to think that I am not willing enough to express to you the infinite gratitude I feel for all Cubans, the infinite happiness we feel. [Frei Beto: "We were ready for four hours."] For four hours? [laughter]

Attends Reception

FL1502125892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] With the presence of our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, a farewell reception was held last night for the Brazilian celebrities who had come on the Solidarity With Cuba flight. At the ceremony, which was held in the gardens of the Cuban Institute of Friendship With the Peoples [ICAP], ICAP President Sergio Corrieri said the chapter being written through the presence in Cuba of our Brazilian brothers concerns not only Cuban history but also that of Latin America.

Corrieri, who is also a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, spoke words of appreciation and congratulation to the more than 100 Brazilian celebrities who came on the Solidarity With Cuba flight for their goodness and courage in coming to our country. For his part, His Excellency Asdrubal Pinto de Ulyssea, the Brazilian ambassador to Cuba, in stressing the relations of affinity and brotherhood that exist between the two countries, stated that no situation will weaken these fraternal ties.

At this farewell reception for those who came on the solidarity flight, which was also attended by our commander in chief, Antonio Calado, a well-known Brazilian writer, also spoke. He said that he was amazed by what Cuba had achieved and said that Cuba is the only country in the world where one feels a part of living history. He added: In Cuba, one feels the seed of hope for a new civilization. Thirty lecturers from different Brazilian universities attended this reception, which concluded with a concert by Cuban singer/songwriter Pablo Milanes. This concert became a hymn to love and Latin American integration.

Castro Attends Opening of New FAO Headquarters

PA1602170192 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1400 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro inaugurated in Havana the new headquarters of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] and toured its facilities with Rafael Moreno, FAO regional representative for Latin America.

The Cuban president said science can help man increase food production without destroying nature after he observed a display of products of the Institute for Food Industry Research.

Moreno praised Cuba's role in favor of that UN organization and its cooperation with other countries. (Augusto Sinoes Lopez Neto), FAO representative in Havana, thanked the Cuban Government for the new headquarters and President Fidel Castro for attending the ceremony.

Fernandez Delivers Castro Message to 'Arafat

FL1502122592 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers, delivered to the PLO offices in Tunis a message from Cuban President Fidel Castro to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Fernandez, who is currently visiting Tunis, had previously conveyed another message from Fidel to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The TAP [TUNIS AFRIQUE PRESSE] agency has reported that the message to the Tunisian president recommended a strengthening of cooperation between developing countries.

Returns From Middle East

FL1802024792 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Today, Cuban Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez highlighted the overwhelming display of solidarity and respect for our country, which was demonstrated by the Arab countries he recently visited. Upon

his arrival in Havana, Fernandez stated that during his tour of Syria, Iran, Libya, and Tunisia he could see the presence of a great admiration for Cuba, Fidel, and the position of our country in current international affairs.

The Cuban leader traveled as our commander in chief's special envoy. His main objective was to convey messages to the top leaders of Damascus, Tehran, Tripoli, and Tunis as well as to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat.

Fernandez characterized the tour as very important for the relations between Cuba and the countries he visited.

Trade Agreement Signed With CIS Republics

PA1502014292 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0006 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Cuba has signed general trade agreements with six republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Lithuania, and Latvia. This was reported by sources from the Cuban Foreign Trade Ministry. The agreements, some of which will be effective for five years, create the groundwork for trade—but they do not include lists of merchandise or pledges for delivery. The republics with which the agreements were signed are: Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.

An agreement is also being discussed with Estonia. Meanwhile, an agreement is being negotiated and analyzed with Russia and the rest of the republics. It was also learned that a trade operation is already being implemented with Russia. Cuba will export 1 million tons of sugar for an equivalent amount of crude oil, meaning 1.8 million tons of fuel. A similar agreement was signed with the republic of Kazakhstan, but for a lesser amount. All the agreements and exchange rates are based on international market prices.

Chinese Delegation Arrives for Economic Talks

FL1702140292 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] He Chunlin, deputy secretary general of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, arrived in Havana on 16 February. He heads the Chinese delegation to Cuba which will participate in the fourth session of the Cuban-Chinese Mixed Commission for Economic and Trade Relations which begins in Havana today.

Grenada

Finance Minister Explains Economic Difficulties

FL1702125892 Bridgetown CANA in English 1901 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Feb 15, CANA—The Grenada Parliament Friday night passed the government's 229 million dollar (one East Caribbean [EC] dollar = 37 U.S. cents) budget. As the debate on the budget concluded, Finance Minister George Brizan restated government's difficulty in improving its pay offer to public servants. He called on public sector unions to seriously take a look at the financial implications any increase in public servants salaries will have on the economy.

"Government cannot offer any (further) increases. The country cannot afford to pay. In the given circumstances the 5 percent offer by government should be seen as generous," Brizan told Parliament on the fourth day of the parliamentary debate dogged by an opposition boycott and walk-out.

According to the Ministry of Finance EC 83 million dollars was made to public servants in salaries, wages, and personnel payments in 1991.

"Government is willing to do its best for its workers, but the question is where will the money come from. Grenada needs a chance to pick up," Brizan said. He said it was impossible for government to raise its pay offer of zero percent for 1990, 2.5 percent for 1991, and 2.5 for 1992 made two months ago.

He said government can no longer borrow from the National Insurance Scheme to pay salaries (since it already owes 11.3 million dollars on the 1987 salary increase). It could not borrow from the local banks to pay salaries, since this will raise the national debt, contrary to the aims of the current structural adjustment plan, he said.

Haiti

Votes Favor Renewed Negotiations With OAS

FL1402193192 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the Haitian Senate voted on a resolution providing for the resumption of the negotiations under the auspices of the OAS.

According to a parliamentary source, the senators asked the parliament president to communicate with OAS leaders to choose within three days, at the latest, a place and date—between 15 and 22 February—for the continuation of the negotiations. The Senate resolution also provides for the parliament and the executive to work out jointly a protocol which could be used as a basis for the negotiations and the ratification of the choice of the prime minister.

As for the deputies, they voted a four-point resolution which asks that the embargo be lifted and that the OAS supply Haiti with the necessary funds for the reconstruction of the country and the reinforcement of the democratic institutions.

The Chamber of Deputies Special Crisis Committee resolution has also been released. They say that the prime minister, who will be designated, will have to lift [as heard] the embargo and the many sanctions that the OAS and its member countries have taken against Haiti;

to acknowledge the Haitian parliament's acts such as the appointment of the Court of Cassation judges, the Supreme Audit Court and Administrative Litigations members, and the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces prior to being ratified. They will ask the OAS to take the commitment to finance the national reconstruction program, to provide a specified amount of money so as to boost the Haitian economy.

Before his ratification, the prime minister will be asked to commit himself to ask the OAS to pledge to put enough funds at the disposal of the new government. This will allow the new government to reinforce democratic institutions such as the Army, the parliament, the judicial power, the Permanent Electoral Council, the Communal Section Administrative Councils, the territorial communities, and so on. This will then be done during a period of several years. The new head of government will also be in charge of setting up adequate structures so as to reach a stable return to the constitutional order.

That crisis committee was made up of National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] Deputy Alexandre Medard, Deputy Joseph Lambert, Deputy Duly Brutus, FNCD Deputy Edmond (Mirol), and Deputy Deus Jean-Francois of the National Democratic Corps. Deputy Duly Brutus is a member of the Social Democrats and Deputy Joseph Lambert is a member of MP [expansion unknown].

Senators Delpe, Mondestin, and Opont also made some proposals regarding this resolution from the Chamber of Deputies Special Crisis Committee.

Aristide Not Expected at ACP-EEC Meeting

FL1402175092 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will not attend the joint meeting of African, Caribbean, and the Pacific [ACP] countries, and the EEC which will begin in Santo Domingo on Monday. Today, Favio Herrera Cabral, Dominican deputy foreign minister, confirmed Aristide's absence. Even so, since it is listed on Monday's opening program of the plenum meeting, Aristide's message, despite his absence, will be read to the assembly by Guy Alexandre, who was appointed as Haitian ambassador to the Dominican Republic before the ousted president left power.

The organizers of the meeting, who had sent Aristide an invitation, had announced the possibility of his presence at the event which will gather 600 delegates from 600 [as heard] countries and 69 delegates from the EEC. The organizers announced that the de facto Haitian Government, headed by Joseph Nerette, has appointed (Paul Arcenan), a long-time member of the Haitian Embassy in the Dominican capital, as its representative to the meeting. The possible presence of Aristide at the meeting had created great expectation because it would be his first since the 29 September coup.

Last night, Dominican Foreign Minister Juan Aristides Taveras Guzman said he does not oppose Aristide's visit. Previously, he had said that such a visit was not appropriate at this time.

Delegation To Attend

FL1502005592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] A Haitian parliamentary delegation consisting of three deputies and three senators will fly from Port-au-Prince today to attend the meeting of the African, Caribbean, and the Pacific [ACP], and EEC countries in the Dominican Republic from 17 to 21 February. Senators Guy Beauduy, Jacques Rony Mondestin, Turneb Delpe; and Deputies Antoine Joseph, Eric Lamothe, Emonde Supplice Beauzile will be part of this delegation whose mission is to obtain support for Haiti among the member countries of the Lome Convention. Deputy Randal Canel will be as an observer at this meeting.

The deputies have prepared a entire dossier on the matter. Deputy Antoine Joseph has told us that overtures have been taken with the Caribbean community and contacts have been made with some European diplomatic representatives. Let us listen to Deputy Joseph:

[Begin Joseph recording] As parliamentarians we have already defined our strategy so we are prepared to discuss this matter. We met on Monday afternoon with a delegation from the EEC in Haiti. The German ambassador, the French charge d'affaire, the permanent delegates of the EEC in Haiti, the economic adviser of the community, and the French Embassy representative were present.

During this meeting, we first discussed the need for an increase in humanitarian aid to Haiti and the consequences of the embargo. We also debated the political approach of parliament, within the framework of a search for a solution to the crisis, and finally discussed the problem of Haiti 's expulsion from the convention. I think that we made some valid arguments, such as noting that the embargo, as a means of pressure from the international community, has not helped Haitian authorities really implement democracy. To intensify the pressure will not solve the problem. On the contrary, it might inspire an outburst of nationalism and so forth. We do not believe that poverty serves the cause of democracy, and that to further impoverish a country in which poverty already prevails, is to create greater political instability. This in turn will generate a breakdown in the democratic process. [end recording]

Government on Possible Human Rights Accusations

FL1402200592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The Haitian Government made an anticipatory challenge yesterday to any condemnation from the UN Human Rights Committee, which is meeting in its 48th session in Geneva.

In a Foreign Ministry press release, the government expresses its strongest reservations regarding possible accusations of human rights violations which could be made against Haiti. Contrary to the principles of justice and equity which constitute the fundamentals of international relations, the Republic of Haiti is not empowered to voice its remarks and comments on the reports by the groups and associations which pretend to have investigated on human rights violations in the country, states the provisional government communique.

Theodore Interviewed on Negotiations, Attack

FL1402191892 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Interview with National Reconstruction Movement leader Rene Theodore, reported prime minister designate, by correspondent Philippe Bien-Aime; date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Bien-Aime] Several persons, as yet unknown, fired many rounds near the home of Rene Theodore in Petion-Ville on the night of 12 February 1992. According to the National Reconstruction Movement [MRN] leader, this action falls within the scope of the pressures and maneuvers of some sectors against the negotiated solution which is being sought to put an end to the Haitian crisis. Theodore says the solution to the crisis must go through Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's return to power because no international authority agrees with or wants to acknowledge the current government. He does think, however, that General Cedras should remain the head of the Army. [passage omitted]

The Senate is apparently not opposed to you being appointed prime minister. But it seems to have problems today to know who—between Father Aristide and President Nerette—should appoint you as prime minister. How do you understand this situation?

[Theodore] To me, the situation is clear. The actual problem of the country is that the international community refuses to acknowledge the current government and especially President Nerette. We must understand that whatever comes from President Nerette will be treated the same way. This does not mean that they especially hate Honorat or Nerette. They stand by a position of principle in view of a situation that they do not accept. The country cannot live in isolation. No country in the world can now live in isolation. We are then faced with a number of actions from the international community that compel us to make adjustments. We must be flexible and perhaps take the opportunity for the benefit of Haiti.

[Bien-Aime] Does that mean you will not accept an appointment as prime minister from President Nerette?

[Theodore] Listen, I am not looking for an appointment as prime minister. This means I do not accept the post of prime minister at any cost, at all costs. Instead of being prime minister while my country remains blockaded, I prefer to say no, thank you. If, on the contrary, accepting this post of prime minister means that the country will be opened, that the international community will resume cooperative relations with us so the country can move forward, that we can manage to solve the problem of security in the country, to solve the problem of ... [rephrases] let us say the problem of economic recovery, to make the economy dynamic, and to restore confidence so Haiti can move ahead, then I will say yes. Otherwise, no.

[Bien-Aime] Do you think the solution to the Haitian crisis goes through Father Aristide's return to power?

[Theodore] Well, given the nature of the problem, Aristide is part of the negotiations. He is one of the parties involved in the negotiations. This means that a prime minister who results from these negotiations would be a prime minister whose appointment Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide participates in, as well. Therefore, you have what is called a political return. The physical return is something else. This means Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide's personal return to Haiti is stated in other terms. It is stated in terms of a conflict that is already hitting the society and makes that return not only difficult but also dangerous. So, as long as one cannot see that the return will take place without danger for himself and for the country, one must carefully think about it. But a political return already exists by the very fact that the parliament has accepted to negotiate the choice of a prime minister with him.

[Bien-Aime] How do you see the fact that Father Aristide does not at all agree that General Raoul Cedras remain at the head of the Army? Do not you think that can cause a problem?

[Theodore] That will not cause any problem. It would not be the first time that there is divergence between a head of government and a head of state. That happens. Anyway there is only one solution to divergence. It is a legal solution. What is legal? What is not? When one leads a government, one must seek legality and always legality.

[Bien-Aime] What is legal in this case, according to you?

[Theodore] What is legal in this case is that the Constitution provides for how a general [commander] in chief is chosen. It is provided for as a parliamentary act. If the parliament does the act, nobody can break it.

[Bien-Aime] Yesterday, Thursday, prospective Prime Minister Rene Theodore met with a military committee that is leading a investigation on what happened on the MRN premises past 25 January. Mr. Rene Theodore thinks this investigation will end with a result which will allow confidence to be restored in the society. [passage omitted]

March Protests U.S. Economic Blockade of Cuba

PA1602032392 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0004 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Mexico City, 15 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Approximately 10,000 Mexicans on 15 February participated in a march to repudiate the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba and to offer their solidarity to the Cuban people and government.

The representatives of the "Go For Cuba" movement reported that the march is intended to show the United States that the Mexican people are displeased with "the economic and political aggression, and the intervention against Cuba."

The demonstrators marched approximately five km and shouted slogans such as: "Fidel, for sure, let the Yankees have it!" and "Listen, Cuba, Mexico endorses your struggle," among others, and they demanded the shipment of oil to the island.

During the march, the participants honored Cuernavaca Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo, who died quite recently. During the march the participants displayed a sheet painted with one of Mendez Arceo's thoughts: "History is a teacher in life... we cannot be blind instruments of imperialist domination."

Thousands of Mexicans, mostly non-believers, honored the bishop for his struggle on behalf of the poor, human rights, and democracy in Haiti. He rejected and struggled against the U.S. economic blockade and aggression against Cuba.

The movement's representatives reported that they will send the first ship to Cuba late in February with 200 tons of lubricants. The ship is scheduled to depart Tampico located 550 km from Mexico City.

The shipment of lubricants, which has an approximate value of $107,000, was gathered between October and February through bonds that were distributed throughout the country.

The representatives added that they have another shipment of lubricants scheduled for late March, paid for by the sale or exchange of paintings donated by Mexican artists. The paintings have an approximate value of $200,000.

The organizers stated their confidence that the island will be able to overcome the economic blockade and emerge as an example for the world.

Miguel Alvarez, representative of the Arnulfo Romero Christian Solidarity Committee's secretariat, said that the Go for Cuba movement would not have been possible without the participation of Bishop Mendez Arceo, who constantly denounced the blockade and gave his unconditional support.

"Super Barrio," who works with neighborhood committees of support for Cuba, said that President George Bush is planning an invasion of Cuba in his efforts to gain support for this year's election in his country.

"We must remain alert and not allow this," he said. He urged the Cuban people not lower their guard and to continue as usual in their struggle for self-determination.

Salinas Notes Efforts To Protect Environment

PA1402235492 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Report by Jesus Cardenas Jimenez]

[Text] The government will not stop allocating funds or taking steps to improve the ecology and the environment, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said on Thursday, 13 February, during the opening of the international meeting on biodiversity problems and conservation, attended by experts and specialists from several countries of the world.

[Begin Salinas recording] In Mexico City we have unprecedented levels of pollution. The government, together with society, is committed to accelerate the struggle to improve the quality of the air we breathe. We have established community projects and increased the resources allotted to this sector. Approximately 12 trillion pesos, or the equivalent of $4 billion, will be spent to fight pollution in Mexico City. We are not going to stop these actions because we want to protect the health of our children. [end recording]

In his address before scientists and representatives from environmental groups, Salinas explained at length the actions being taken to preserve the ecology, woods, jungles, and marine fauna, stressing the protection given to animals in danger of extinction. The president said the 21st Century will bring major challenges not just in economic and political terms but also in ecological terms. He said progress must not come at the expense of further environmental deterioration.

[Begin Salinas recording] Economic growth based on the degradation of natural resources is not desirable. We must make development and environmental concern compatible. That can be done, and we have the responsibility to prove it in practice. [end recording]

The scientists and experts attending this meeting will prepare recommendations to be submitted at the conference on the environment to be held in July, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, under the auspices of the United Nations.

El Salvador

Copaz Installs Special Agrarian Commission

PA1402200692 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The eight members of the special agrarian commission established by the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace [Copaz] were sworn in on 13 February. This second Copaz commission has been the most difficult to establish. It is tasked with what is currently the hottest issue in the country: the legalization of land in conflict areas.

[Begin recording, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, official Eduardo Sancho, identified by caption] As the name indicates, the special agrarian commission will deal with one of the most serious issues in the country. The agrarian problem was undoubtedly the origin of the civil war in El Salvador and of our war with Honduras. Thus, it is really very important for us to solve it.

All commission members are aware of the importance of the problem. We want to solve it within the next six months, in a conciliatory, legal, ordered, and gradual manner. [end recording]

The special agrarian commission, just like the National Civilian Police commission, wants to begin its work immediately. They will start with an inventory, which the FMLN has apparently already prepared. According to the agreements, this inventory had to be presented to Copaz before 15 February.

[Begin recording, government representative Eduardo Barrientos, identified by caption] We will try to reach an agreement that is favorable to all concerned with the least possible confrontation; hopefully without any confrontation.

My personal feelings are that things are happening too fast. We have to be aware that the process just began a month ago. A problem that has existed for so many years cannot be solved in one month.

I want to ask every person involved in the problem and every person in general to have patience and to believe in the peace agreements. The people working here—if I may say so—have the will to work with the highest patriotic spirit to solve this problem. [end recording]

It seems initially apparent that the task of the commission will not be easy. Theoretically, it will have to review each and every case involving a disagreement between the owner and the actual resident of a small or large plot of land in war-torn areas.

Issues Landownership Statement

PA1502133592 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 14 Feb 92 p 5

[Statement issued by the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace: "Copaz on the Issue of Landownership"]

[Text] In reference to the agrarian issue, the National Commmision for the Consolidation of Peace, Copaz;

1. Calls on all parties involved in the agrarian issue to analyze the peace agreements carefully, channel their demands and proposals within the framework of that agreement, and interpret the agreements with a constructive and concerted approach.

2. Calls on all peasants to refrain from more illegal land takeovers and from altering the existing situation so there will be adequate time for the mechanisms established by the peace agreements to function and solve their problems.

3. Calls on all landowners not to endorse or demand peasant evacuation and to take into account that the peace agreements cover the issue of lands located in conflict zones.

4. Calls on all parties to avoid further violence or threats of occupation, eviction, or any other type of confrontation in this agrarian problem.

5. Considering that Copaz and the peace agreements are intended to engender the respect of all Salvadorans for the political constitution, with the understanding that the solution to the agrarian problem must be orderly, take everyone's interests into account, and make adjustments according to the legal government of our country, it is hereby resolved:

1. To encourage all political forces and social sectors literally to study, promote, and respect the peace agreements.

2. To entrust the Special Agrarian Commission, already appointed by Copaz, with guaranteeing that the section pertaining to agrarian problems will be honored within the framework of the peace agreements, always trying to ensure a legal solution to the issue of land in conflict zones.

3. Copaz promises to disseminate all of the agrarian agreements.

[Issued] San Salvador 14 February, 1992.
[Signed] Copaz.

Government Presents National Reconstruction Plan

PA1502164192 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] San Salvador—The Salvadoran Government has presented the official National Reconstruction Program to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and it will be debated next week.

Planning Minister Mirna Liebano de Marquez and National Reconstruction Secretary [Secretaria de Reconstruccion Nacional] (Norma de Dow) presented the program to the FMLN commission at a meeting in a San Salvador hotel. The FMLN commission included Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Mauricio Chavez, Marisol de Galindo, Aida Herrera, and Rafael Benavides. Walter Franco, representative of the UN Development Program, also attended the meeting.

The government program will require $1 billion in resources in order to be implemented. The losses created by the almost 12 years of war in the country are calculated at $1.8 billion.

The FMLN opposes the program. It believes that 80 percent of the program is geared to repairing the country's physical infrastructure, not to meeting the social needs of the people who were the most negatively affected by the war and who have not received social benefits for many years.

Ana Guadalupe Martinez said the government program had not been discussed at the 14 February meeting but would probably be considered on 17 February. Martinez said: We cannot deny the government's right to implement its program, but we believe some other matters must be included.

FMLN Commander Comments on Socioeconomic Plan

PA1402153892 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 11 Feb 92

[Report by Jose Luis Magana; passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] command on 10 February revealed its socioeconomic proposal for the construction of a new Salvadoran society that will soon be discussed with other groups. Commander Ferman Cienfuegos [Eduardo Sancho] said the guerrilla plan is designed, among other things, to democratize the economy and strengthen civilian institutions. To achieve this, the guerrilla leader added, we must promote human resources by creating new companies to generate jobs:

[Cienfuegos] "We believe we need to establish new economic conditions in the country to build the future, not bring back the past. We need to bring prosperity, which will allowing us to create a new producers' movement with small and medium-sized businesses."

Cienfuegos added that the FMLN will propose to the private sector that an investment model be established in conflict areas:

[Cienfuegos] "We urge large businesses to invest in conflict areas. We welcome their investments in those areas. We want democratization of the banking and financial systems."

As for land occupations, he said the FMLN on 15 Febuary will present a report on the state of properties held by the guerrillas during the conflict. He added that the agricultural problem must receive the attention it deserves:

[Cienfuegos] "We must change the rules of land ownership. This is basic, because the problem led to war; the land problem led to war. We must solve it."

Finally, Cienfuegos described as positive any privatization program, such as one recently implemented by the government, as long as the program favors and involves the workers.

Calderon Questions FMLN Weapons Inventory

PA1402153792 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The Nationalist Republican Alliance announced on 12 February that it does not trust the inventory of troops and weapons the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] delivered to UN Observers for El Salvador. According to Armando Calderon Sol, the guerrillas' statistics are not reliable.

[Calderon Sol] "You will recall that there was evidence in the past of tons of weapons being unloaded in Nicaragua and entering El Salvador. That undeniably worries us."

Armando Calderon Sol, the president of the ruling party, said there are too many differences between the number of troops in the guerrilla forces and the amount of weapons they are planning to turn in.

[Calderon Sol] "I feel we cannot deceive ourselves. We Salvadorans are aware of the scope of this confrontation, and now we cannot believe it was a minimal force when we all know there was violent action for many long years in our country."

There is reason for concern not only for El Salvador, but also in the neighboring countries, the politician added, noting that this represents a threat.

[Calderon Sol] "That is why we feel the United Nations and the international community should demand total and absolute disarmament. All of the weapons should be turned in so the region will be sure that there will be peace."

Regarding the recently appointed commission to discuss the agrarian issue, Calderon Sol said the commission should work with well-qualified staff.

[Calderon Sol] "These subcommissions do not necessarily have to be like the National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace. We believe they should be technical commissions made up of qualified, knowledgeable people who are familiar with the country's agricultural problems."

The reporters availed themselves of the opportunity to ask about the poor health of Major Roberto D'Aubuisson. Calderon Sol said D'Aubuisson's condition is stable but delicate, and the prognosis is guarded.

Calderon Sol went to Plaza Peru in San Salvador, which has been repaired and improved.

FMLN Commander Responds

PA1502042092 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 13 Feb 92 p 32

[Text] Roberto Roca, commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], said the FMLN presented a report on the number of combatants and weapons it has. He said Dr. Armando Calderon Sol's [president of ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance] statements that the insurgents' inventory report, which was submitted to the UN Observers for El Salvador, is out of touch with reality was irresponsible.

"We are handling the weapons and equipment issue with people with whom we are supposed to conduct an inventory: the UN representatives in our country. They keep abreast of our work to duly comply with the agreements," Roca added.

Roca does not think it unusual that a campaign is being mounted to blame the FMLN for failing to comply with the agreements.

"It is not strange to hear such a claim from them for propaganda purposes and to complement false claims of land occupations. We regret this situation, because these statements came from the president of the ruling party," Roca said.

The guerrilla commander said another goal of the alleged campaign against the FMLN is to extend the life of the National Guard, a security corp that, according to the agreements, must disappear.

Roca believes Calderon Sol has not recovered from his amazement that the army of rebels turned out to be highly qualified. Roca added: "There was a limited number of combatants, but the support the FMLN received from the people compensated for that."

"With few combatants and the help of the population, we fought a large army that received a great deal of logistical support and, above all, more than $4.5 billion in foreign financing," the guerrilla commander said.

Roca said Calderon Sol's statements contradict previous ones. "They have always said the FMLN is a small group, but now they are saying we have more members. Even they do not view us as serious electoral opponents," Roca said.

Villalobos on Disarmament, Future of FMLN

PA1602021292 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Feb 92

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Feb (NOTIMEX)—Commander Joaquin Villalobos reiterated the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's willingness to dismantle its military structure. Villalobos also acknowledged that there are differences within the FMLN and stated that he anticipated an internal revolution.

During an interview with NOTIMEX, Villalobos ruled out the possibility of military action by the rebels unless the government first engaged in a "fatal" action. He assured us that the FMLN has taken up the flag of reconciliation.

[NOTIMEX] President Alfredo Cristiani said a few days ago that the information presented by the FMLN to the United Nations concerning their weapons inventory and the number of men in their ranks was false. In addition, Cristiani warned that if this was found to be the case, he would request that the FMLN be demanded to furnish accurate data.

[Villalobos] I believe that Cristiani, like us, has a right to his doubts about the plan to reduce the armed Forces. [sentence as received]

We stated that the plan to reduce the number of officers was false, because it was reported that the Armed Force had 63,000 men and the reduction would be based on false data.

The Armed Forces really have 38,000 members; this is based on accurate data. Currently they have 2,200 officers and, based on their numbers, after the reduction they would have 2,300 officers, which means there would be an increase.

We were able to prove this because we have the Armed Forces' roster with all the officers' names. In the end they had to accept that this was true.

The data that the FMLN has put on the table is the responsibility we assumed with the United Nations, not with the government. In the same way that during the negotiations they said the reduction plan was nonnegotiable, we have nothing to discuss with them on this issue either.

Our commitment is to dismantle the FMLN military structures and to destroy the weapons on the date agreed upon. We are complying strictly with the agreement. We are not going to concern ourselves with what President Cristiani has to say because the numbers are not a subject for debate with the government.

[NOTIMEX] I am going to ask you a hypothetical question: If this process encountered truly serious setbacks, would the FMLN respond militarily?

[Villalobos] That is something that is not convenient; it is not something we want. The agreements provide for a military guarantee mechanism, those nine months

allowed for the ceasing of the armed conflict (CEA). That guarantee is not meaningless.

The dismantling of the FMLN's military structure could be carried out very quickly. If it is not done quickly, that is because politically there must be something to guarantee the dismantling.

We do not want to see the process break down, because there is no political framework for that situation. It could only happen based on the government's fatal action, which would fully justify the breakdown in the eyes of the world. Otherwise it would be political suicide for the FMLN.

If we react and start to violate the agreements, we would lose credibility and have many problems. In this regard, we have no plan of action. We are interested in stability, although it is good for us to point out that we have the capacity to respond should such a situation arise.

[NOTIMEX] Do you believe the presence of the rebel military forces guarantees the fulfillment of the agreements?

[Villalobos] I do believe that their presence is a guarantee. The truth is that there are three guarantees for the fulfillment of the agreements.

There is the guarantee of the United Nations, the verification mechanism of ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador]; the guarantee of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (Copaz), which is the internal guarantee; and the nine months allowed for the ceasing of the armed conflict, which, by the way, was considered by all as the proper amount of time required to start off with a new society.

[NOTIMEX] Now that the euphoria resulting from the attainment of peace is passing and tension has diminished, what arena are we presently entering? The FMLN is incorporating itself into a society that had an image much different from the one that we see now. How does the FMLN define itself in this new panorama, and what guarantees does it have for its reincorporation into society?

[Villalobos] We laid out a complete process in the timetable, and now we are explaining who we are to the people.

We have to realize that we are looking back on a situation that was characterized by a dominant anticommunist ideological confrontation that lasted 60 years. We are looking back on a psychological war that lasted 10 years; a war that was swamped with information about how the FMLN represented the country's worst aspects. What is most important to us is to do away with those opinions that the government has been sustaining.

We have a considerable political force that is the best organized force in the country. This represents a tremendous organizational and public relations effort, as well as a tremendous effort to responsibly adopt the banner of national reconciliation. Next we will enter the internal reorganization phase; a very important phase.

We will see something like an internal revolution taking place within the FMLN. This revolution will be directed toward reorganizing the FMLN into a democratic force that will even include different ways of thinking. This reorganization is to take shape within the next few weeks in working meetings that will acquire public dimensions with the upcoming legal establishment of the FMLN as a political party.

[NOTIMEX] Is there a possibility of violent action against FMLN leaders?

[Villalobos] Considering the situation in which we are living, I would say to those persons who are thinking of playing dirty that they must take into account the nine months that the cease-fire will last and the political strength that the FMLN has shown.

At present, playing dirty is very risky because it can unleash a very serious situation that no one would be able to control. The persons who would stand to lose the most would be those who initiate the process.

[NOTIMEX] But a delicate situation has already been unleashed. There is a high level of crime, as well as murders that are being attributed to common criminals.

[Villalobos] I am not sure you are right about the crime situation. This problem should be resolved with the creation of the National Civil Police.

In our case, it will be important to introduce organizational elements into society, to introduce preventive mechanisms that will help us to withstand the abnormal situation in which we will live. Certain sectors will present an exaggerated version of this situation for the purpose of going back to a militarized society.

One must remember that the country experienced high crime levels despite the militarization that we lived under during the war. Military presence was not and will not be the solution to this situation.

[NOTIMEX] We saw the FMLN spring forth as a block, but now there is much speculation about existing differences, even at the command level.

[Villalobos] If we had only one point of view, then there would be a reason to worry: We would be a lie, a false product of politics. The FMLN is a revolutionary movement with new characteristics; therefore, it cannot be categorized as traditionally left-wing and monolithic. The fact that the FMLN has some cracks does not mean that it will fall apart.

The FMLN knows how to manage its differences. It has a multiple internal political composition, and the only way to avoid having differences is by becoming a hard-line Stalinist party. In that respect, we are different.

[NOTIMEX] There is a great deal of speculation that some FMLN leaders will leave the country because there are not enough guarantees. Is that true?

[Villalobos] If we had directed our attention toward solving our own situation before finishing the negotiations, we would still be going over all that. We put all our efforts into the negotiations, and now we are solving—in a very complicated manner—the problems that surround our permanent residence in the country, our organization, and our security.

The fact that some of our leaders may leave the country should not be interpreted as a political decision. Their departure is related to tasks that must be accomplished abroad and with the proper organization, because we cannot go on improvising forever.

[NOTIMEX] How can you, Joaquin Villalobos, describe to us the progress in the peace process?

[Villalobos] Up to now it has been positive. Part of this pertains to us, to how we have unfolded as a political force, to how we perceive that this force really does work, even in sectors that were opposed to us.

You already know that the phase of euphoria that resulted from the attainment of peace is already past and problems are now arising. I believe the situation favors us, because no one is interested in seeing this process move backward.

French Foreign Secretary Signs Aid Agreement

PA1502194492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] French Foreign Secretary Alain Vivien signed a food aid agreement with El Salvador on 14 February. He is in the country on a 24-hour official visit. Vivien met with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani to discuss the National Reconstruction Program.

The French donation consists of a shipment of powdered milk valued at more than half a million dollars. It is part of France's cooperation with the Salvadoran reconstruction programs after 12 years of war. Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro signed the agreement for El Salvador.

Vivien told reporters: Now that weapons have been silenced, we are happy to sign a new food aid agreement. This is a concrete action demonstrating France's willingness to support El Salvador, especially in this transitional period. The Salvadoran Government will sell the milk on the national market. The money will be used to finance social development programs.

Vivien added that his country will also extend funds for the construction of energy infrastructures and schools in low-income San Salvador neighborhoods.

After meeting with Cristiani at noon on 14 February the French official awarded San Salvador Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas the French Legion of Honor medal for his work in supporting peace in El Salvador.

Nicaragua

Sandinist 'Center Group' Makes National Proposal

PA1802023292 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 17 Feb 92 p 6

[Report by Nohelia Gonzalez]

[Text] The defense of the workers' right to property, support for the agreements that emerged from the concerted effort, implementation of an honest privatization process, exclusion of violence as a means of resolving conflicts, democratization of the economy, and strengthening of the de jure state are among the points in a proposal presented by a faction of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] known as the "center group."

The document was unveiled between 15 and 16 February after being presented a few days earlier to Commander Luis Carrion, who received it on behalf of the FSLN National Directorate.

The document calls for the creation of a national plan through which all Nicaraguans will come together and which will "summarize the social, economic, and political progress and experiences of the past decade and incorporate new elements that will lead to the institutionalization of democracy, which we will do as Sandinists," said Fernando Guzman, a member of the group.

Guzman defended issuing 25 percent of state property to the workers as one of the agreements reached during the concerted effort, which must be respected, and said that the defense of these agreements is one of the group's reasons for existence.

The only way to defend those agreements, he said, is to "join this national plan," which seeks to strengthen the de jure state but rejects methods that go beyond just the labor struggle, as in the case of Aeronica, "where human lives were endangered."

The proposal states the need to "immediately" apply Decrees 35-91 and 36-91, which regulate property conflicts. It calls for support of the concerted effort agreements to achieve stability and eliminate the occupation of businesses, lands, etc.

The group takes a positive view of certain parts of the adjustment plan implemented by the government, "but the government must promote measures that will ease the negative effects. We are referring to the execution of an honest privatization process with the workers' participation," said Guzman.

Another of the points in the proposal is "the strengthening of the branches of state's independence in honor of the national plan. Likewise, its calls for respect for the institutional and apolitical nature of the Armed Forces within the framework of the political constitution, which is fundamental to guaranteeing the country's peace and stability."

Center Group or Convergence?

Rafael Solis, another member of the group, rejected being described as of the "center," saying that the group purports to be "a trend of renewal and change."

The group is Sandinist, said Solis and Guzman, and as such belongs to the left. Nevertheless, Guzman added, we use the term "center" because "a national plan means the incorporation of all political sectors, including those of the right. Therefore, we propose to go toward the center to meet with all the sectors, but from the left, as Sandinists."

In the group, Solis explained, there are individuals who hold different positions; what matters are the coincidences stated in the document. Solis said he is a social democrat, but added that not everyone in the group identifies with this political trend. He said that the group is "broad-based, not homogeneous."

Guzman denied that the group is the organic expression of a political plan that identifies with General Humberto Ortega or any other faction of Sandinism.

Solis, meanwhile, added that the FSLN is not limited to the FNT [National Workers Front], which is a trend within Sandinism, and added that the group seeks to carry out an "ideology-free national plan based on minimal points of coincidence."

Guzman and Solis agreed that the group does not intend to promote divisions within the FSLN, but that it must define itself. "Today we are a trend of opinion that promotes debate to strengthen unity and action."

The document "From Sandinism, Proposals for a National Plan," thus far has 18 signatures, among them those of Guzman and Solis, and those of Francisco de Asis Fernandez, Oscar Tellez, Julio Lopez, Raul Venerio, Domingo Sanchez Salgado, Bernardo Chamarro, Julio Valle Castillo, Vidaluz Meneses, and Carlos Aleman Ocampo.

FSLN Deputy Ramirez Supports 'Center Group'

PA1502202292 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Felix Navarrete]

[Text] Sandinist Deputy Rogelio Ramirez Mercado said "he agrees with many of the center group's ideas" and admitted to having participated in some of the meetings these 20 Sandinist followers have held to discuss the party's future.

Ramirez' statements give a new twist to the debate on the emergence of a "center" trend within the FSLN because it presents the facet of a leader who accepts and even supports the group.

The Sandinist deputy insisted this "center" group, as a trend, has great following among the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN). He disclosed the fact that it had not become an organization within the party because of the FSLN's very righteous [verticalismo] political style "that did not allow these trends to emerge."

Rogelio, who is a brother of FSLN Directorate member Dr. Sergio Ramirez Mercado, has become the first FSLN deputy to recognize the group's importance. He "almost fully" supports every point. He criticized some of the procedures, however.

"The right to an opinion and to dissent is one thing; a group assuming powers that no one has given them is something else," Ramirez said severely. He criticized the group for taking their complaints to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo.

Ramirez believes the mistake of the "center" group was to issue public statements before the Sandinist directorate had a chance to learn of the group's position through a document. "The group's good point was to draft a document and state that they do not at any time intend to split from the party. The most delicate part was to allow Rafael Solis to act as spokesman. [no end quotation mark as published]

Ramirez also clarified that Solis has his full confidence, but he is currently acting as the lawyer for those who are reclaiming confiscated property, "which makes him a representative of right-wing interests. The group then appears linked to that image, even though incorrectly."

When asked about the possibility that this trend could become "dominant" within the FSLN, Ramirez believes the group's ideas "are a summary of what the Sandinists believe. Their ideas do not contradict those of the Crucero document or those of the Sandinist assembly."

Nevertheless, the Sandinist deputy admits these trends have a common thread: "We Sandinists fear division; we have had experiences we do not want to repeat."

To Ramirez's way of thinking, eliminating righteousness has led to a process of democratization within the FSLN, "from which we all benefit," he said.

"We were a guerrilla organization that fought Somozism, then we became a ruling party that became involved in another war, and now we are a party that has lost the elections. It is obviously necessary to become less strict [desverticalizacion]," Ramirez stated.

Regarding the FSLN's future, he said this party faces the task of restructuring a "more formal" political and ideological belief." Ramirez said: "We are undergoing a transition. It is possible these new proposals may seem abstract to us."

He admitted, however, to believing that all trends, which he would not list, must agree to seek an electoral majority without the party becoming a political hustler.

The deputy agrees with Sandinist leader Dora Maria Tellez, who says: "Our party will remain left-wing,

nationalist, and with an integrationist outlook." Time and history have the last word.

FSLN's Carrion on Elections, Party Militancy

PA1602135692 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 14 Feb 92 pp 1, 12

[Article by Edgard Barberena S.]

[Text] Commander Luis Carrion of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] said the FSLN has never entertained thoughts of striking an alliance for the 1996 elections with government sectors headed by [Presidency Minister] Antonio Lacayo, "because the elections are a long way off and the country is currently facing enormous problems."

"We are committed to peace, national stability, and defense of the people's interests. Our political decisions are not linked to electoral ambitions in 1996." He stated, "This does not mean the FSLN will make alliances of any kind in the 1996 elections."

As for the FSLN by-laws that were approved at the first Sandinist Congress in July 1991, Carrion said they must be transformed, "because I believe they still reflect the past and those by-laws, which serve as the bases of our party, must be modified."

Those modifications to FSLN by-laws will be achieved "to the extent that we find better ways to organize FSLN activities," Carrion said as he analyzed the FSLN's future for this newspaper.

Carrion's assessments indicate that the FSLN National Directorate [DN] clearly realizes the need to transform the Sandinist party in keeping with the country's objective reality, taking into account the results of rank-and-file debates on the party's future.

Carrion confirmed that the DN has already discussed this situation. He answered questions asked lately by some radio stations, including why DN members are no longer appearing in public.

He pointed out objective reasons "such as the fact that during the previous government FSLN DN members, including President Daniel Ortega, Vice President Sergio Ramirez, and Jaime Wheelock of the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform were public officials. This put them in the media spotlight."

Carrion said that Sandinist influence on the media was very strong and "has its effects." He added: "DN members, except for Dr. Sergio Ramirez, chief of the Sandinist bloc at the Assembly; and Rene Nunez, recently elected as leader of the Community Movement, currently hold no official posts that afford them nationwide visibility," he added.

Carrion said "the FSLN has no leaders in the active associations and unions because they have their own leaders, are highly autonomous, and do not serve as FSLN communications areas."

He said the Sandinist bloc at the Assembly is the FMLN's most visible representation and added that its responsibility is to struggle for the majority's interests, to strengthen democracy, and to defend political and civic rights from the National Assembly with intelligence and flexibility.

Carrion said the FSLN now has more militants but is less centralized and is facing organizational and political problems. Sandinists are involved in all sectors of society, he added.

He explained that party cohesion and militancy prior to the triumph of the revolution was different than after the revolution because the situation had changed" and because being a militant means that one is willing to give one's life; endure torture, jail, and death; and display ironclad discipline."

"When we took power, our militants made a number of demands. But they were not the same as those made before our triumph; we were facing another situation. We do not believe cohesion means going back to the situation that prevailed before the elections because we are facing yet another different situation. The organization of forces will now be done differently," Carrion added.

Regarding the FSLN's financial situation, Carrion said part of the funding for the party's activities comes from the party's own resources. He added, "We are currently preparing to go out and collect membership fees in accordance with the agreements made at the Sandinist party congress and general assembly."

Part of the money collected will remain in the municipalities or departments for local expenses. "It is important that there be total supervision to prevent the money from being used for someone's personal benefit and to guarantee that the funds will be managed in the best possible way," he said.

He pointed out that one of the main issues in the FSLN electoral process is the presentation of the party's financial statements. In it the FSLN will explain to the congress what funds have been received and what local funds remain. Commander Henry Ruiz, FSLN general treasurer, is responsible for this.

Special Brigade To Begin Disarming Civilians

PA1602132892 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Feb 92 p 2

[Report by Edgard Solorzano and Alberto Rivera M.]

[Excerpts] Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Arnesto Soza said that, as a new stage of Nicaragua's disarmament process, the Special Disarmament Brigade (BED) will begin disarming civilians and cooperatives on 14 February. In Jinotega on 13 February, 1,600 fighters turned in their weapons.

Francisco Baldivia, also known as "Dimas," one of the main recontra chiefs, accompanied his 800 men as they demobilized. He said he will remain in the country.

"I have no reason to leave because I was always open to dialogue, and I did not hurt the people," he said.

"Dimas" said his men received only 1,000 cordobas, three manzanas of land, and the government's promise to give each commando a house.

"Dimas" said he was responsible for 3,000 men and explained that the remaining 2,200 will demobilize when the government decides.

Recontra chief "Mario," Juan Velazquez, who once threatened LA PRENSA reporters with death, demobilized on 13 February with his 65 men "for the sake of peace." [passage omitted]

Government Minister Carlos Hurtado and Deputy Finance Minister Leonel Rodriguez, government delegates to the negotiation process, stated their satisfaction with the peace agreements.

With the 13 February demobilization, armed groups have practically disappeared from the region, except for two small recontra groups headed by "Chaparro," "Aguilita," and "Guapote." Lt. Col. Rodrigo Gonzalez, chief of the 6th Regional Command, said the Army is looking for them.

Government Minister Hurtado delivered the main speech at the ceremony when the weapons were turned in. "This ceremony represents the end of a bloody and difficult chapter in our history. Now we must dedicate ourselves to consolidating the present and building the future," he said.

Recontra Commander Travels to United States

PA1602034492 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Feb 92 p 12

[Article by Edgard Solorzano]

[Text] Recontra leader Jose Angel Moran, known as "El Indomable," has entered the United States with a special permit granted by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service at the request of the Nicaraguan Government. On 11 February in Jinotega, Moran surrendered his rifle to Monsignor Eddy Montenegro and announced his decision to go to the United States to "continue his civic struggle."

The controversial "Indomable" had told the media that after his demobilization he would settle down and become a farmer, carpenter, or bricklayer. However, his current home is in Miami and he is in touch with groups that are unhappy with President Violeta Chamorro's government.

Stedman Howard, USIS director at the U.S. Embassy in Managua, has said that the special permit granted by the Immigration and Naturalization Service "does not fall into the category of visa." Howard, who was approached by LA PRENSA regarding the special permit granted "Indomable," said that the case will be decided in the United States.

France Resumes Aid, Signs Cooperation Agreements

PA1502002292 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Report by Erika Ramirez]

[Text] President Violeta de Chamorro received French Foreign Affairs Secretary Mr. Alain Vivien. They discussed the resumption of French cooperation assistance for Nicaragua. Two cooperation agreements covering technical and nutrition areas were signed.

Future assistance agreements were also discussed during the visit. French assistance to Nicaragua had been suspended since 1986.

[Begin Presidency Deputy Minister Jose Adan Guerra recording] Following Mrs. Chamorro's election victory and her visit to France, friendship and cooperation agreements between Nicaragua and France reemerged. The visit of Foreign Affairs Secretary Vivien represents France's special interest in Nicaragua. [end recording]

The French foreign affairs secretary announced an increase of French assistance to Nicaragua and said a $15-million financial protocol will be signed sometime between March and June.

[Begin Vivien recording] With these agreements, plus others to be signed in coming weeks, we signal our desire to restore mutual cooperation between both countries. I wish to emphasize that the Joint Commission's work was conducted in a friendly atmosphere. France's financial assistance will increase approximately 20 percent. [end recording]

The agreements signed between Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Krugger and Mr. Alain Vivien cover agriculture, education, energy, health, telecommunications, and a 6,000-ton wheat donation worth $1 million.

[Begin Krugger recording] Nicaragua's reconciliation process and democratization plan receives political support. [end recording]

At a news conference concluding his visit, the French foreign affairs secretary said his government will cooperate in the total refurbishing of the Berta Calderon Hospital, the Managua potable water system project, and increase the coverage of the country's telephone network.

Panama

Noriega Supporter Rigoberto Paredes Released

PA1502185992 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Feb 92 p 1

[By Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Police sources have confirmed that Rigoberto Paredes, the former Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD) legislator who had been in jail since the U.S. invasion of Panama 25 months ago, was released from jail after paying $75,000 in bail on the night of 14 February.

The National Civic Crusade [CCN] expressed its frustration over the release of Paredes, who is a former Noriega collaborator. The organization stated his release was possibly based on negotiations between the PRD and a sector of President Guillermo Endara's government.

LA PRENSA reporters went to the Modelo prison, where a guard whose last name is Dominguez confirmed that Paredes was released at approximately 1830 on 14 February.

The guard said: "He left around 1830. He was accompanied only by his relatives. Nobody else was with him."

"Radio Leader 540" radio station cited a high government source as reporting Paredes' release and the $75,000 bail payment. It did not say if the bail had been appealed.

The former legislator was charged with aggression against then opposition member Didio Delgado and sentenced to two years in prison. Delgado was attacked by paramilitary members after the 7 May 1989 presidential elections.

During the critical period brought about by deposed General Manuel Noriega in his relations with the U.S. Administration, Paredes was one of the most fervent defenders of the toppled Panamanian military regime.

There are still 52 former Noriega collaborators, both military and civilian, in the country's jails. They were arrested during the U.S. invasion of Panama and charged with public crimes. The current opposition sector, however, asserts these people are political prisoners.

Eusebio Marchosky, a magistrate in the Directorate for the Recovery of State Property (DRP), asserted that Paredes was released because we have been unable to present the necessary evidence to keep him in prison.

Marchosky said: "What I mean is, we are not accomplishing what the Panamanians want in regard to justice."

The DRP magistrate added that it is fine for democracy to respect defendants' human rights, but that does not mean that things such as this should be allowed to occur because we are unable to substantiate criminal charges in an adequate manner.

CCN leader Carlos Abadia asserted that this event has again cast shadows on the administration of justice in Panama.

"Everyone knows Paredes' background—not only during the 21 years of dictatorship, but also prior to 1968—and I believe his release deteriorates the government's image regarding the administration of justice," Abadia stated.

Abadia believes that this event further discredits the government, as it promotes a lack of credibility in the government's honesty.

"It is another hard blow to the Panamanian people, and is very painful for all of us who struggled to attain justice in Panama...it is very painful for all those who suffered the military regime's human rights violations," Abadia declared.

"The news really surprised me," Abadia added.

Manuel Burgos, another CCN leader, stated that Paredes' release was not a surprise, "but was a violation."

In his opinion, the release of the political opposition leader could be part of the negotiations between the government and the PRD.

"I have the impression they are doing things behind the people's backs and that negotiations are being held behind the scenes between PRD leaders, who are related to Noriega, and sections of the National Government," Burgos asserted.

According to Burgos, Paredes' release is another mockery of the CCN postulates and the Panamanian people's desire for justice.

Burgos, who is a former Panama City deputy mayor, warned those who are currently playing with the people's dignity to be aware that people will make them pay at the 1994 elections for not having done justice now. Justice will then be meted out twice, he added, because "we will judge the Noriegists and the scoundrels who, having had the responsibility of imparting justice, have not done so."

Legislators' Reactions Reported

PA1602192692 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Feb 92 p 1A

[Report by Nubia Aparcio and Elkilia Santos]

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] legislator Gloria Moreno de Lopez said, commenting on the release of Rigoberto Paredes, a former legislator of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], all that is left is "to open all of the country's jails so we can live together, hooligans and decent people."

Paredes had been under arrest for 25 months following the U.S. invasion and was released the night of 14 February after posting 75,000 balboas in bail.

"To release individuals like Paredes sends a tremendous message to Panama's youth to commit crimes, do anything they like, because there is no justice in the country," she added.

She said there are people who were directly abused and attacked by "Paredes' gang." She was referring to all the members of a family in Arraijan who were arrested just because they were celebrating the electoral victory of Endara, Arias Calderon, and Ford on 7 May 1989, including a pregnant woman.

Lopez indicated that "they all testified against Paredes, and yet he (Paredes) has been released."

The former PRD legislator, who during the dictatorial regime was one of the most adamant and violent supporters of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, is facing several charges, including human rights violations.

"This situation is frustrating and disappointing to me. I think if President Guillermo Endara is ready to pardon the Noriega hoods, he had better grant a pardon and release all of them, because the National Legislative Assembly will not pass an amnesty law," she added.

She warned the PDC will never vote in favor of amnesty because the government must first do justice, then the criminals have to show remorse.

Lopez, who described the Paredes release as "a frustration for the Panamanian people," said "in this country, it pays more to be a criminal. All the big thieves walk the streets with impunity, as if nothing had happened."

The legislator noted that Attorney General Rogelio Cruz was asked a few days ago about the likelihood that Paredes may be released, and he replied there was not sufficient evidence against him nor against "dignity battalions" leader Benjamin Colamarco. "I said to him: Mr. Cruz, go to the Santo Tomas Hospital and you will find people who will testify. I want you to know that Colamarco took over the hospital by force." She noted there is proof of all of this, adding it would not surprise her if Colomarco was the next one released.

According to the legislator, Colamarco turned the Santo Tomas Hospital into a garrison. "He and his men removed at rifle point the nurses working in the maternity ward on 25 December and told them to lie down on the beds and hide under the blankets so the gringos would not see them. On top of everything, they are bunch of cowards."

"It would seem nothing that happened here is as simple as that," she concluded.

PRD Legislator Mario Rognoni said he is pleased with the Paredes case because the legal system allowed him to post bail. Paredes will wait at home for the trial date. He is confident he will prove his innocence of the charges against him, Rognoni noted.

According to Rognoni, his party thinks it is unjust that politicians of the previous regime should have spent more than 26 months in jail awaiting trial. "The PRD feels that keeping 47 politicians in jail without trial constitutes the biggest travesty perpetrated in the name of justice," Rognoni indicated.

The PDC and the Civic Democratic Crusade, however, feel the release of Rigoberto Paredes makes a mockery of justice. PDC Vice President Ivan Romero said the release of one of Noriega's top collaborators "smells fishy."

Endara Denies Involvement

PA1702192692 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] President Guillermo Endara said Rigoberto Paredes' release from jail is not the result of a political pact. Endara said he will not meddle in matters that pertain to the Judicial Branch.

[Begin Endara recording] It is a stupid and vile thing to say. It is not true that an agreement with the government was made, much less an agreement to release a common criminal like Rigoberto. It is stupid because everyone knows the government's position. It is stupid because everyone knows the government does not meddle in matters that pertain to the Judicial Branch. The decision was made by the Judicial Branch, and we are not going to meddle. It is a vile thing to say because this is a government with a proven vertical and [word indistinct] position; therefore, [words indistinct] know it was not like that. [end recording]

Herrera's 'Disappearance' From Prison Reported

PA1402165392 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Feb 92 p 1A

[By Jose Quintero De Leon]

[Text] The disappearance of former Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Captain Ricardo Herrera—nicknamed "Martirio"—from Naos prison was reported to the media on 13 February by Juan Materno Vasquez, Herrera's defense counsel.

Herrera, who is accused of being one of the main perpetrators of bomb attacks, was arrested on 23 January pending a Supreme Court resolution on a habeas corpus filed on his behalf. Herrera insists he is innocent of all charges.

Vasquez said he spoke with Captain Pedro Ospina, in charge of area "A" of the National Police in San Felipe, who told him his defendant had been transferred to Naos. When he called Naos island on the telephone, a lieutenant named Valencia who is in charge of the prison denied that he had received Herrera. The Modelo prison director told Vasquez the same thing.

Herrera's relatives advised Materno Vasquez that they had gone to visit Herrera at Naos, but when they asked for him, the prison authorities denied he was there. The relatives thought it was strange that in spite of this, the authorities accepted food and clothing for him.

Vasquez then asks who is lying, because Ospina tells him that Herrera is no longer in San Felipe but was taken to

Naos, Valencia denies this, and the Correctional Department of the Government and Justice Ministry states that Naos is no longer part of the National Penitentiary System. "This situation has caused much concern," the former president of the Supreme Court and former government and justice minister said, insisting that Herrrera has disappeared from the Panamanian prisons.

Vasquez also charged that Herrera was mistreated during his detention in San Felipe, because one night he had to sleep handcuffed to the prison bars. The lawyer compared this to the times of the past that Panamanians want to forget.

Regarding Herrera, reports given to the Attorney General's office reveal that he was the one who helped retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan escape from Naos prison on 4 December 1990. This fact served to unleash a police revolt that was later quelled by U.S. troops. It was also learned that former soldiers had planned to occupy the David Police Headquarters the following day, but the plan failed because of the U.S. military intervention.

In an interview given to LA PRENSA before he was arrested, Col. Herrera said he regarded "Martirio" as a magnificent, humble, disciplined soldier who had earned his nickname through his tough stance toward the recruits, not because he had bad instincts.

In that sense, he regretted that "Martirio" had been arrested on unfounded charges, because he does not believe he was linked to any attack. As evidence of the fact that his conscience is clear, he noted that "Martirio" was arrested innocently at a bus stop.

Authorities Question Herrera

PA1502200892 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Feb 92 p 1A

[By Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] On 14 February, former Sublieutenant Ricardo Herrera Urena, also known as "Martirio," who had been reported as missing, was taken from Naos Island to the Ninth Circuit Court Prosecutor's Office where he was questioned for more than three hours about his alleged connections to a plot denounced by President Guillermo Endara.

According to a file at the prosecutor's office, Herrera and other soldiers have been charged with plotting against the internal stability of the state. Nonetheless, "Martirio" denied he was involved in any act of subversion.

Herrera, who was reported missing by his attorney Juan Materno Vasquez, was taken to the prosecutor's office. When reporters asked where he was being held, he responded: "Well...I do not even know, because they take me out day and night, and when they put me in a dark cell, I do not know where I am."

The former officer said they brought him on 14 February from Naos, where he is being held under tight security measures in a very dark cell. It is like a basement where one cannot tell if it is day or night, he added. One has to go through at least four iron gates to reach the cell, he explained.

Herrera added that his human rights are being violated in Naos, because he is not being permitted to use the telephone or to see his family and attorney.

Regarding the reasons for his arrest, the former officer stated that it is for political reasons because "they had to catch somebody, so here I am handcuffed in the maximum security jail without any rights."

Herrera explained he did not know why he was being detained or who gave the order, because when he was arrested by persons in civilian clothes under the command of [Director of the Institutional Protection Service] Carlos "Toti" Bares, he was informed he would only be taken to speak with Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

"Martirio" explained that after his arrest, which occurred this 24 January without a warrant, he was taken to PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] installations, where he saw the attorney general, Legislative Assembly President Marco Ameglio, Bares, and PTJ Director Jaime Abad.

The former military officer claimed that after he arrived at the PTJ, Ameglio and Bares asked him to make statements against retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera, a request he denied. He told them at least three times that he knew nothing about what they were asking.

The former officer said he served for 25 years as a sublieutenant with the Panama Defense Forces and the new Public Force. He added that he continues to work in order to help his family because he has not received his retirement.

Herrera denied he has planted explosives or bombs. He also denied ever meeting with retired Col. Eduardo Herrera to plot against the government.

Although he knows Col. Herrera, he added that he is not related to him by blood; he is only a fellow soldier.

Meanwhile, Materno Vasquez said no specific charge was made against his client during the questioning.

Materno Vasquez added that the most important thing is Herrera's accusation that he was tortured during his detention.

Materno Vasquez reported that the proceedings against his client will permit him to file a report on the torture against the officials who participated in the arrest of his client.

Materno Vasquez stated the torture included forcing his client to sleep in a police station with one hand handcuffed to a bar. In addition, he was put in a cell with common criminals who threatened him that they had orders to kill him.

Materno Vasquez concluded that he will also file reports against the authorities who took Herrera to Naos, which is not a public jail, and placed him in an isolated cell.

Solis Says Security Corps on 'Maximum Alert'

PA1402164092 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 14 Feb 92 pp 1, 40

[Report by Justino Gonzalez]

[Text] Menalco Solis, executive director of the Public Security and National Defense Council [Conasepuden], said on 13 February that the security corps are on maximum alert in the face of threats by a group of soldiers who recently created a "military general staff."

Solis, who served as minister during the military dictatorship, told CRITICA LIBRE the destabilizing groups do not have the slightest chance of dealing major blows to the security of the state.

The Conasepuden official noted the authorities located the place where the military group read their statement and had their photograph taken, but he declined to provide further details. According to Solis, this military group has no possiblity of toppling President Guillermo Endara Galimany.

The former minister added there is no evidence that the military are well armed. He denied they are based in guerrilla camps in the mountains located in the interior of the country.

Arnulfists Issue Resolution Supporting Endara

PA1402223792 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Feb 92 p A2

[By Hermes Sucre Serrano]

[Text] The Arnulfist Party, led by Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, reiterated its support for President Guillermo Endara's efforts to consolidate the democratic system and promote the noninvolvement of the Public Forces in party politics.

Given the escalation of attempts to destabilize the embryonic democracy, the Arnulfists repudiate such events and pledge to support the constitutional president of the Republic.

A resolution issued on 13 February by the Arnulfist Party noted President Endara was chosen as the country's leader by the majority of the people, an expression of the desire to move toward democracy.

"We call on party members to stay alert and faithful to the Panamenista-Arnulfista ideal," the resolution stated. The resolution was signed by president Mireya Moscoso de Gruber and German Vergara, acting secretary general of the Arnulfist Party.

President Issues Statement Supporting Unions

PA1402200792 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Feb 92 p A-2

["Press statement" issued by President Guillermo Endara Galimany in Panama City on 13 February]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] I take this opportunity to refer to a claim presented to the Supreme Court of Justice demanding that obligatory union quotas be declared unconstitutional.

It is well known that since we assumed power in December 1989, our main government objective has been to restore and strengthen democratic institutions and through them to solve the grave problems affecting the Panamanian people in order to begin a new phase of progress and liberty.

In modern society, unions are one of the most important democratic institutions. As we approach the third millennium, we cannot leave the collective interests of the workers at the mercy of individual selfish interests. Collective interests have had preeminence over individual interests ever since the Arnulfist constitution was promulgated in 1941. We cannot strangle our unions economically by depriving them of their right to union quotas. Unions are genuine representatives of the workers' interests; hence, workers must contribute economically in order to guarantee the existence and functioning of unions, which defend collective interests.

Unfortunately, some media sources, and even some union leaders, believe the government promoted the recourse filed to demand the unconstitutionality of union quotas. Nothing is farther from the truth. We believe the demand presented to the Supreme Court of Justice is totally unjustified. It is contrary to the democratic principles of the current government. I would not like to see workers' rights trampled because workers have been deprived of the only instrument capable of defending their interests.

We must clearly state, however, that the decision on this matter is exclusively within the purview of the Supreme Court of Justice. As president of the Republlic, I must respect the final and obligatory decision made by the Supreme Court of Justice.

[Issued] Panama City, 13 February 1992

[Signed] Guillermo Endara Galimany, president of the Republic

Negotiator Says U.S. Bases 'Condemned' To Close

PA1702182092 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 92 p 32A

[Report by Elio A. Rujano M.]

[Text] U.S. military bases in Panama are condemned to close, not because of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, but

because the understanding between the United States and Russia makes those installations obsolete, according to Carlos Lopez Guevara, former treaty negotiator.

"We have to understand not that the gringos are staying but that they are leaving in friendship, respect, and dignity and only one flag will wave in Panama," the Labor Party leader indicated.

Lopez criticized Legislator Leo Gonzalez (of the National Liberal Republican Movement) and Ray Bishop, secretary of Local 907, the Armed Forces Employees Union, for calling for a referendum on whether or not the people want the bases to stay beyond the year 2000.

Gonzalez and Bishop maintain that after the bases close, Panamanians will be jobless in a country where the current government has been unable to generate more jobs.

The former negotiator said the two leaders are at odds with the times by endorsing an extension of the bases. They are trying to stop the march of history, considering that the 9 January martyrs made it clear they did not want a foreign presence in Panama.

The people in Panama who say the U.S. Army is defending the canal are grievously mistaken. "The U.S. Southern Command performs a geopolitical strategic function linked to the Cold War, which has ended," he remarked.

"With the conclusion of the Cold War, and in a world where the possibility of a war between two superpowers does not exist, the presence of bases overseas is not necessary," he added.

"Why have foreign bases in Panama, especially when we have abolished the army?" Lopez asked. "How are we to reconcile the tremendous historical and political contradiction of eliminating the Panamanian Army while supporting a foreign army," the former negotiator added.

The Panama Canal's defense is attained through its neutrality, and that will be achieved the day Panama has a coherent, neutral, and mature foreign policy, Lopez indicated.

Planning Ministry 'Document' on Debt Accord

PA1702210292 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Feb 92 p 2A

["Document" issued by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy in Panama City; date not given]

[Text] A local political group recently issued a communique questioning the agreement between the government and the International Financial Institutions [IFI's]. Some comments are insignificant and can be sufficiently explained by the document entitled "Normalization With the International Credit Organizations and the Paris Club," which was published recently by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy and provided more accurate details, figures, explanations, and references.

But we believe the doubts raised should be explained for the benefit of the national community.

Financial Negotiations with the IFI's

The lack of a payment plan and overdue foreign debt obligations adversely affected Panama's economy. Among other things, the country did not have access to loans, guarantees to purveyors, or assistance programs from the developed countries. An agreement with the IFI's was required even to form a "Support Group" and obtain financing for social programs.

International credit organizations do not forgive loans, give donations, or refinance their debt. The governments pardon or reduce their debt, within the framework of the Paris Club negotiations. The fact that we receive a large donation from the United States, have a bright economic future, have a per capita gross national product of 2,000 balboas per year, an annual growth rate of 9.3 percent, and a budget surplus makes it difficult for other countries to forgive our financial obligations.

Thanks to donations and international contributions, the total debt has been reduced by 370.8 million balboas. Loans from countries and those very international organizations were also used to pay the old debt, but it is unrealistic to say that we paid the debt by going further into debt; the debt was not paid. What we did was trade overdue and old obligations for new debt, debt to be amortized over the long term and with a three to seven-year grace period.

This trade of old debt for new debt is a common refinancing mechanism in negotiations with private banks, but it is unacceptable to international organizations. This is precisely the key to the success of the negotiations; namely, being able to refinance indirectly and reprogram our obligations in the long term.

More Money Will Go Out Than Come In

The previous regime left the country with a large foreign debt and overdue obligations to service it. To reach an agreement on the payment of overdue obligations will always involve sacrifice. In addition, we will have to pay current obligations. This is a government responsibility that was shared and assumed by parties now in the opposition. The position adopted by some of those who now criticize this is inconsistent with their past actions.

Meanwhile, mathematically speaking, it is clear that in the short term (and only in the short term) we pay more than we receive. A simple calculation results in a negative net flow of foreign currency in the short term, and it would seem, as it is suggested, that this is detrimental to the economy. But to begin, we repeat that part of this

payment goes to the regular servicing of the debt, which was going to be made anyway.

The long-term cost is offset by the long-term benefits, so paying today is only a temporary cost. This is largely due to the delay in concluding the negotiations. As we all know, the delay was caused by the opposition of different interest groups, privileged sectors, political parties, and those who fish in troubled waters. They made acceptance of some measures difficult.

The negotiations with the IFI's have not "caused hunger and desperation" or "unbearable sacrifices." The economy grew in real terms by 4.6 percent in 1990 and 9.3 percent in 1991 (there are people who question and even criticize this). Unemployment is going down. The present level of activity is close to that of 1987. For instance, it would be enough to see the reactivation of the construction sector, the Free Zone, fowl production, and other areas. The economy has recovered in the fastest possible manner, given its capacity to rebound and the existing level of uncertainty.

The government policies, beginning with the liberalization of the banking system, the formulation of the economic plan, and the negotiation with the IFI's, have positively contributed to create an atmosphere favorable to investment and reduce uncertainty. These measures have contributed to a favorable climate, an important component to speed up private investment and achieve a recovery.

The Increase of the Debt Because of the Devaluation of the Dollar

We incurred a loss resulting from the devaluation of the dollar, but it was not a loss of 100.8 million balboas, as was reported. That figure erroneously included 55.0 million, corresponding to current debt maturity from January to April 1990, while only 45.8 million balboas correspond to losses incurred in the devaluation. No reasonable solution could be found to avoid this. To buy foreign currency of stocks in the futures market or other forms of avoiding devaluation losses are speculative activities that no serious government can incur.

The Investment Program

There have been comments that "only" $282 million will be used for investment purposes. This actually alludes to access to the financing of investment projects with the IFI's. However, the loans for economic recovery amount to $129 million in the second and third installment. These funds will be used exclusively for top social priority investments and projects given the policy of not increasing regular expenditures. In addition, there is a donation of $84 million from the Inter-American Development Agency.

Of the funds available from international organizations, $54 million will be paid immediately. This includes payment on projects that have already been completed, payment on outstanding bills, and payment on future projects. It is estimated that nearly $78 million will be used to finance loans for short-term and medium-term investment (from one to two years). The amount could increase if the drafting of projects is accelerated. As much as $100 million could be received over the long run.

The Problem With Delays in Reaching Agreements

Economic policy adjustments are political traumas that delay the process and make it more difficult. An example is the experience in reforming the retirement system to obtain funds for the payment of the 13th month bonus, which, luckily for the country, was successful because it was a responsibility shared with all opposition groups. It is easy for critics outside the arena to say (without proof) that things could have been done better or quicker without making viable proposals. The problems in getting the European countries to contribute to the support group shows the difficulty in reaching agreements.

The Economic Program and the Social Debt

As we mentioned in the Planning Ministry document, the negotiating process requires balancing the different tendencies between those who want a stronger program but with high transformation costs and little political realism and those who want a program that can satisfy everyone without any political cost but also without any transformation contents, which is unacceptable. The attitude toward continuing to defend the status quo, high industrial protectionism, distortion of agriculture prices, and the "benefits" for the different sectors cannot be considered a modernization proposal.

The best way to pay the "social debt" is to implement an economic program such as the one that has been drafted. As a result of this program, the price of the family basket will be reduced, demand for workers will increase, and new economic opportunities will be created. In addition, the availability of financing and the support of other governments will be the source of funds to finance social projects. Finally, the program promotes private investment, especially foreign investment, as well as exports, which will contribute toward maintaining high rates of economic growth.

Argentina

Menem Agrees To Send Troops to Yugoslavia

PY1702204692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2003 GMT 17 Feb 92

[By special correspondent Gerardo Sobrado]

[Text] Paris, 17 Feb (TELAM)—In response to a UN request, Argentina will send approximately 1,000 Army officers to Yugoslavia to carry out a peace mission in border areas where there is friction after the devastating civil war in that country.

Army Commander General Martin Balza confirmed this information to the press after Argentine President Carlos Menem told him that he has decided to grant the UN's request. Because the contingent of officers and noncommissioned officers will go on a peace mission, it will be sent through a presidential decree without requiring congressional approval, in the same manner that Argentina sent naval units for the multinational force that fought Iraq. Balza, who is part of the president's entourage in the latter's European tour, said: "The president's decision to grant the UN's request is Argentina's contribution to world peace."

Balza stated that Menem told him about his decision on 15 February during a trip the Argentine delegation made to Brugge, Belgium. Balza added that Argentina will send between 800 and 900 officers and made it clear that no conscripts will be included. Balza will move up his return to Buenos Aires. He will depart Paris on 19 February in order to implement Argentina's response to the UN request.

Today the Army commander met with his French counterpart, General Amedee Marc Yves Monchal. During his stay in Belgium, he met Norwegian General Vigleik Eide, chairman of the NATO Military Committee.

"One of the missions of the Argentine Army under my command is to seek a much more active participation in peace-oriented military organizations within the framework of the United Nations," Balza said. He added that Argentine military observers currently are stationed in Cambodia, Angola, the Western Sahara, and the Middle East. Balza stated that "in some cases Argentine officers are commanding groups of 60 observers from 19 different countries."

Menem, Collor Write Salinas on Nuclear Treaty

PY1402181892 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Presidents Carlos Menem and Fernando Collor have sent their Mexican counterpart Carlos Salinas de Gortari a message reiterating the full determination of their respective governments to fulfill the last step agreed on in the Foz de Iguacu declaration. This declaration refers to the joint nuclear policy and their promise to use nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes.

A communique issued by the Argentine Foreign Ministry states that the joint message of the Argentine and Brazilian presidents refers to the conference of the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America [Organizacion Para la Proscripcion de Armas Nucleares en Latino America] being held today to mark the 25th anniversary of the Tlaltelolco Treaty.

Arroyito Heavy Water Plant '98 Percent Complete'

PY1502181692 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0228 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (TELAM) — The National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA] reported today that [words indistinct] the loading of ammonia (?anhydride) at the heavy water industrial plant, and this implies putting into operation the process [words indistinct] obtaining the product, which has been estimated for the end of this year. The plant is located in Arroyito, Neuquen Province.

According to Engineer Ricardo Galli, manager for heavy water projects, "The plant is 98 percent complete. Only the final touches and the equipment fitting have to be done."

Heavy water, together with natural uranium, is an indispensable element for the functioning of Argentina's nuclear plants. The loading of ammonia, a very important landmark in the schedule of the project, began on 4 February and will continue to the end of the month, according to a CNEA press release.

This chemical plant, the only one of its type in Latin America, is one of two important undertakings currently under construction in the nuclear industry, and its conclusion is closely linked to putting into operation the Atucha II nuclear plant.

The official indicated that it is precisely the startup of the heavy water plant "that is vital to the completion of the loading schedule of Atucha II—which is scheduled for 1995—and, thus, is vital to the return of the water used by the Embalse nuclear plant before the rental contract with Canada expires in 1998."

Enrique Garcia, commercialization manager of the Arroyito plant, has indicated that the plant must not only satisfy the demands of Atucha II, "which ties up seven years of production," it will also have to satisfy "the demands of the future fourth plant that is currently under study."

But the experts consider that the importance that this plant will have for the country can be measured by something else: The demands for this product on the restricted international market in the medium and long term are well known, and thus it can be inferred that there are great possibilities that Argentina could export heavy water to countries currently undertaking the construction of plants that will operate with natural uranium and heavy water.

Practically all the services of the Neuquen Province plant are operational, including the intake [toma], treatment and cooling of water, the low temperature steam generation systems, nitrogen and compressed air, the transforming and distribution of electricity, the natural gas network, the treatment of effluents, the processing control room, and other auxiliary services.

Ricardo Slonimsqui, plant manager, has said that "with the loading of the ammonia in the processing sector all the systems have now become integrated, thus beginning the last phase of putting it into operation. This will lead to industrial production."

Former Col. Seineldin on Failed Venezuelan Coup

PY1502000692 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1103 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb (NA)—Former Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin has stated at the prison where he is being held that "it is impossible not to find a common characteristic" between the Argentine painted faces and the military involved in the thwarted coup in Venezuela. He said that "a democracy based on the sacrifice and impoverishment of the people and the lack of ethical and moral values becomes the worst of all dictatorships."

Seineldin, who headed the bloody rebellion on 3 December 1990, broke his silence with a note written at the Magdalena prison, where he is serving a life sentence. The note is entitled: "The Pro-Painted Faces Movement and the New American Liberation Action."

He said that "those who closely followed the 3 December 1990 events and those taking place in Venezuela a few days ago will understand that it is impossible not to find a common relation between both events."

He stated: "They fought for Venezuela, and we fought for Argentina, but both defended the cause of San Martin and Bolivar—which is the cause of Latin America—as our illustrious men had already stated."

After trying to establish a parallel between the Latin American liberation actions and the recent military rebellions, Seineldin said: "We also struggle for the independence to resist an Anglo-Saxon empire that uses the IMF as an instrument to submit our nations to the worst dependencies, such as hunger, misery, and culture."

He said: "The support for resistance and the new independence began in Argentina on 3 December 1990, emerged in Venezuela on 4 February 1992, and will continue to spread in all those Latin American countries that reject the new order that entails misery, hunger, and submission to foreign interests."

Seineldin stated that he received "with pleasure" the support of "political leaders who defended the legitimate actions" conducted by the Venezuelan people, "who understood that a democracy based on the sacrifice and impoverishment of the people and the lack of ethical and moral values becomes the worst of all dictatorships."

He finally noted the attitude of Venezuelan retired military men, who, according to his opinion, "went even farther to give a true lesson to his Argentine colleagues, because they demanded the most absolute respect for the rebel officers and NCO's and charged politicians with the serious Venezuelan crisis."

Bolivia

Government Responds to 24-Hour Strike Call

PY1402163292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Excerpts] The La Paz Civic Committee ordered a 24-hour strike to began at 0000 today. The institutions that identify with the interests of La Paz Department are obeying the strike in support of the Civic Committee's demand for a larger budget for the region.

Roberto Freyre, representative of the La Paz Civic Committee, reiterated yesterday that, in response to government indifference to the needs of the people of La Paz, the committee decided to call a 24-hour strike from 0000 today. He said:

[Begin recording] The most important instructions are included in a document to be released tonight and tomorrow by the media. The instructions refer to the need for the people of La Paz to actively participate in the strike ordered by the La Paz Assembly. Their participation must not be violent. We should not be dragged by political issues or by government actions to downplay the importance of the strike or to take away its fervor. The strikers will try to convince the owners of shops, restaurants, and other businesses to stop their activities. We are sure that no one will ignore the call for tomorrow's strike. La Paz and El Alto will be blocked from early in the morning; sixty-one street corners have been selected as strategic points to be blocked. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We are now in direct contact with La Paz Mayor Julio Mantilla in the municipality building. He is being held in the municipal emergency detention post [reten de emergencia].

[Begin relay] [Mantilla] Good morning. I would like to say that we are almost in a state of siege because the central government has violated the rights of municipal and government autonomy. At 0700, the police took control of all our detention [words indistinct] units. I am now in the municipal emergency detention post, where I consider myself in custody because the police will not let me leave [words indistinct]. This a clear violation of the Constitution. I spoke with other city mayors of the country, especially with Santa Cruz Mayor Percy Fernandez and many other mayors who are declaring an emergency situation in response to the violation of the municipal power.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the position of the police, who are now being deployed in the municipal emergency post.

[Mantilla] They are deployed all around our municipal vehicles. They have taken over practically all the posts of our operating units in clear violation of municipal autonomy. We said yesterday that we are joining the people of La Paz in their struggle against what we consider to be an outrage. The government has embezzled more than $30 million that it owes us from the value- added tax on fuel. We want to collect more than 18 million bolivianos. There are several irregularities, because Law 843 has been violated. We are practically living in a dictatorship. This is why the people of La Paz declared themselves in a state of emergency. Faced with this situation, the government this morning practically took over municipal facilities. [passage omitted] [end relay]

Nicolas Sanabria has a report for us from downtown:

[Begin relay] I am in the center of downtown La Paz. There are no buses running, only some taxis that are probably not from La Paz. [passage omitted] [end relay]

We now have a report from Jaime Murillo:

[Begin relay] [Murillo] We are in direct contact with Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena, who will refer to the civic committee 24-hour strike in demand of a larger budget for the department.

[Rueda] Good morning. Unfortunately, I have to disagree with Radio Fides. At 0500, I took a ride around the city. I am now working in my office. My people are on the streets. The situation in La Paz is normal. There are some minor problems, but overall the situation is normal. Taxis are working, buses are running. The people are on the streets. People who work in offices are on their way to work. The strike is not being obeyed by everyone, as the Civic Committee expected. The government, through the Interior Ministry, ordered the police to check the streets and avenues of the city to prevent the building of barricades. People found barricading streets will be detained for violating the law and will be placed in the jurisdiction of the courts. The government took this measures in accordance with Article 7 of the Constitution that, in Clause A, gives the people the right to security [words indistinct] from disturbances or disorders resulting from barricades. Clause B guarantees commerce, industrial or other legal activities.

[Murillo] The mayor of La Paz has been detained by the police in the detention post in Sucre Street. What is the government position? Why was this measure taken?

[Rueda] Had you not interrupted me, I would have explained that when a street is barricaded, Clauses A, B, and especially H of Article 7 of the Constitution are violated. This article states that no one can barricade a street because it violates the rights of all Bolivians to freely move around the national territory. A few minutes ago, an individual said in an interview at the bus station that he agreed with the Civic Committee strike but that he disagreed with not being allowed to travel outside La Paz because he has the right to free movement. I would like to be very clear: The Civic Committee has the right under the Constitution to hold a peaceful strike, to go into the streets on a peaceful march, but the committee has no right to barricade the streets of the city because that is a demonstration of force, it is an act of violence that violates the Constitution and the law.

You asked me about the mayor. The mayor has not been arrested. He acted illegally when he ordered municipal vehicles that belong to the community for which he has a responsibility go onto the streets for the illegal purpose of barricading city streets. [end relay] [passage omitted]

Police Report 'Calm Atmosphere'

PY1502133692 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] According to the police report, the stoppage called for by the La Paz Civic Committee was carried out in a very calm atmosphere.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] According to Colonel Luis Prieto, departmental police commander, police limited themselves to guarding the state's assets and did not intervene in the marches and speeches.

[Prieto] Yes, we have deployed our forces to prevent violence. But you can observe that the citizens are responding to the government's request that there be no violent incidents, and we are here to guard the state's assets. You can see that my policemen are peacefully watching the people. [end recording]

Brazil

Rezek, Cheney Not To Discuss U.S. Bases

PY1502020092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0048 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Feb (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek ruled out today the possibility that the transfer of U.S. military bases in Panama to Brazil will be studied in Brasilia next week during U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney's visit.

Rezek flatly denied that the possible installation of U.S. bases in Brazil will be discussed on 19 February by Cheney with President Fernando Collor and Brazilian military officials. Rezek stated that the signing of a new military cooperation agreement between the two countries, in lieu of the 1952 agreement renounced by Brazil in 1977, will not be on the agenda either. Rezek added that the Brazilian Government will oppose the U.S. proposal to use the Armed Forces to repress drug trade.

The Brazilian foreign minister noted that Cheney's visit is "more of a political rather than technical nature." He made it clear, however, that ways to organize military units for border patrols will be discussed during these meetings.

Cheney will arrive in Brasilia on 18 February. On 19 February, he will meet President Collor, the military ministers, and the chief of the Armed Forces General Staff.

Debt Renegotiation Plan Submitted to Paris Club

PY1502012492 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira today submitted the Brazilian proposal for renegotiating the $21 billion debt owed to the Paris Club to the Group of Seven [G-7], which is made up of the world's seven richest countries. The minister said that the proposal elicited positive reactions from G-7 representatives.

The Brazilian proposal provides for refinancing almost all the debts that Brazil owes the Paris Club. Of the total $21 billion debt owed to state creditors, Brazil intends to renegotiate approximately $17 billion, including overdue obligations of $8.4 billion and the portion rescheduled in the last accord signed with the club.

Marques Moreira today had breakfast with the ambassadors to the G-7. The minister said the proposal elicited positive reactions from G-7 representatives in Brazil. The minister added that to reach an agreement with the Paris Club, Brazil will promise to pay part of its overdue obligations, but the amount will be established at the end of the month.

[Begin recording] [Marques Moreira] We obviously will pay something, but it will be quite a small amount. Rather than a substantial payment, it will be a gesture of goodwill.

[Unidentified reporter] How much will that be?

[Marques Moreira] That is part of our proposal, and since we are negotiating with the Paris Club, we will make it public only on 24 or 25 February. [end recording]

The minister reiterated that the inflation rate increase in January will not hinder negotiations with the Paris Club and that he has indications that the inflation rate will drop in February. [passage omitted]

Ministers Brief Legislators on Border Incident

PY1502154692 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Feb 92 p 12

[Text] Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek and Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro yesterday briefed the Congressional Representative Committee in Brasilia on measures adopted by the government aimed at solving current problems on the Brazilian-Venezuelan border. Rezek said that one of these measures is the installation today of a Border Affairs Committee established by the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and the Venezuelan Embassy in 1989.

This committee will be headed by the Brazilian consul in Ciudad Guayana [Venezuela] and by the Venezuelan consul in Boa Vista [Brazil]. It will be comprised of representatives from the Federal Police, the Federal Revenue Department, the Health Ministry, the Brazilian Institute for Environmental Affairs and Renewable Resources (IBAMA), the National Transportation Secretariat, and the National Department of Mineral Production. The ministers also announced that the government will help in the repatriation of Brazilians in Venezuelan territory.

Speaking before 15 legislators, Aeronautics Minister Socrates Monteiro discussed the downing of a Brazilian plane on 16 January by the Venezuelans. According to Monteiro, 20 bullets hit the Cessna plane in different places, "including the fuel tank, which caused the crash." Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek believes that pilot Jose Xavier de Mendonca and gold prospector Moises Ferreira were not executed by the Venezuelans. He said: "The Venezuelan National Guard fired indiscriminately."

According to Minister Socrates Monteiro, tension in this area is caused by three factors: the expansion of the economic border, which attracts thousands of gold prospectors; the demarcation of Yanomami Indian land on the Brazilian side (that makes mine owners encourage the invasion of Venezuelan territory); and the difficulty to locate border markers that are moved by the gold prospectors.

The ministers added that a total of $70,000 (about 98 million cruzeiros) have been allocated for a border demarcation campaign that will be carried out during the second half of this year. The objective of this campaign is to locate more than 80 border markers in the Parima mountain range.

The Foreign Ministry is also organizing a new meeting of Venezuelan and Brazilian authorities to discuss the joint patrolling of the border region. Rezek said that, in addition, the Foreign Ministry wants to coordinate efforts with other government areas for the repatriation of "undesirable Brazilians" living in Venezuela.

Among those measures announced yesterday is the establishment of a Brazilian vice consulate office in Puerto Ayacucho, on an as yet unspecified date. Ambassador Marcos Azambuja, Foreign Ministry political and foreign affairs secretary general, will send a letter within a few days to Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Rosario Orellana, requesting the holding of a bilateral consultation meeting as soon as possible.

Specialist Fortunato Badan Palhares, from the Campinas State University (Unicamp), yesterday received a report from Venezulean experts on the death of pilot Jose Xavier de Toledo and gold prospector Moises Mendonca. Palhares has said in Campinas that he will not study the Venezuelan document because it is a summarized report that does not add information that may allow a comparison with the report made by Brazilian experts.

According to Palhares, the Venezuelans submitted a four-page report explaining the conditions in which the autopsies were carried out. He added that he will wait for the final report before issuing a conclusive report.

Official Says Collor's Security 'Vulnerable'

PY1502013492 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Feb 92 p 16

[Text] Brasilia—General Agenor Homem de Carvalho, chief of the president's Military Household, yesterday said that President Fernando Collor's security is vulnerable and that corrective actions must be taken. Carvalho, who is in charge of the president's security, detected security flaws after a FOLHA DE SAO PAULO article noting that a FOLHA reporter found a work schedule of security agents in a garbage can at the Casa da Dinda [the president's official residence].

Carvalho said: "The article shows that security is vulnerable and that corrective actions must be taken."

Presidential Spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva said that the fact that someone was able to dig into the presidential residence's garbage is itself a security flaw. Despite admitting the need to take corrective action in the security system, Carvalho denied reports that the ramp ceremonies were temporarily suspended because of threats against the president.

Carvalho said: The president's decision to suspend the ramp ceremonies are in no way related to security problems. Do not be surprised if tomorrow or later he decides to fully restore the ramp ceremonies again. [no quotation marks as published]

Chile

Vargas on Tlaltelolco Treaty on Anniversary

PY1502013092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The Chilean position not to build nuclear weapons is subject to the condition that other neighboring countries will not build them. This was the explanation given by acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas, who also said it is necessary that Latin America remain a nonnuclear continent. Vargas made these statements when he was commenting on the effects of the Tlaltelolco Treaty, whose 25th anniversary was commemorated today. He said that the Chilean attitude regarding this disarmament treaty is based on reciprocity.

[Begin Vargas recording] Our position has always been subject to that condition. The significant steps taken by Argentina and Brazil—yesterday I received the Brazilian ambassador and charge d'affaires—aim at that objective. Brazil and Argentina are today announcing in Mexico, as they did some time ago in Vienna, their determination not to keep or produce nuclear weapons. This is the condition that would have made Chile ratify the Tlaltelolco Treaty. We will change our position once they join this effort. [end recording]

Vargas also reported that President Patricio Aylwin has sent a letter to Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari on the anniversary of the Tlaltelolco Treaty. Aylwin states in his letter that Chile wishes to renew its firm determination for peace and to contribute to the enforcement of the treaty in its total territorial area of application. In the letter, Aylwin states that Chile promises its broadest cooperation in this subject.

Vargas also spoke about the French atomic tests in the Mururoa Atoll, which he said are a violation of norms of international law.

Aylwin Writes Salinas

PY1502140192 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin has sent a letter to his Mexican counterpart Carlos Salinas de Gortari expressing Chile's firm determination to respect the nuclear nonproliferation treaty for this continent.

Aylwin sent Salinas de Gortari the letter on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the treaty banning the production of nuclear weapons in the region, which was signed by all countries of the hemisphere.

In his letter, Aylwin recalls that this position is shared by Argentina and Brazil, who now are announcing their determination to neither store nor manufacture nuclear weapons. The letter ends by stating that this condition was imposed by Chile to ratify the treaty.

Agreement Signed With Russian Physics Institute

PY1502014892 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The ozone layer continues in the news this year, but this time this is positive news: An important technological cooperation agreement was signed today between the Chilean Air Force [FACh] and the General Physics Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

International scientists greatly worried the public last year when they announced an increased weakening of the ozone layer. This evidence, added to the lack of factual information on the subject, led the FACh to seek a formula to investigate, from our perspective, what is really happening with this protective layer of the atmosphere, how it is affecting our country, and what we may do to control the problem.

This is how General Jorge Iturriaga, FACh Logistics commander, and Vyacheslav Bukreyev, deputy director of the General Physics Institute of Russia, signed a joint technical cooperation agreement today at noon. This is the first treaty signed between the FACh and the Russian institute.

[Begin Bukreyev recording, in Russian with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] This is a very important agreement for the practical development of works in the field of ecology and for the measurement of ozone concentration in the atmosphere. [end recording]

The agreement will soon be implemented. The first stage of the program comprises a one-year study of the variations of the ozone layer with modern measurement equipment to determine the real seriousness of the problem. Thus, more efficient projects may be designed to allow Russians and Chileans to control the situation.

Without doubt, this is a positive partnership for the benefit of the current and future generations. It is also the starting point of more scientific agreements between the FACh and the Russian institute, like the one that will be signed during FIDAE [International Air and Space Fair] 92, where a Muscovite delegation will organize the participation of a Chilean astronaut in a future space mission.

Colombia

Power Worker Strike Creates 'Critical Situation'

PA1502161592 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The power sector on the Atlantic coast has been experiencing a very critical situation since negotiations between the government and the Corepsa union workers broke down. Corepsa Director Hernan Correa Noguera has reported that the workers do not assist the public, do not maintain the electric generators, and have a hostile attitude toward management. Barranquilla and the entire department have suffered extended electricity outages because of equipment that is out of order, damaged power lines, and other technical problems. Therefore, Corepsa Public Relations Director Carlos Yaguabeli has reported that the supply of electricity in the Atlantic Coast area is seriously threatened. Let us hear him:

[Begin Yaguabeli recording] Corepsa calls [words indistinct] its workers to normalize the [word indistinct] situation. There is reportedly a possibility that equipment will be damaged because the [words indistinct] machines are not receiving maintenance. [end recording]

In addition, Labor Minister Francisco Posada de la Pena told Caracol Barranquilla on 13 February that Corepsa has still not recovered from the damage caused by destruction [words indistinct] two years ago. The Corepsa electric generators still do not receive maintenance. At a security council meeting held on the afternoon of 13 February, the Atlantic area governor ordered military surveillance of all Atlantic Electricity Company [Electrificadora del Atlantico] plants. Harrassment by workers has reached such an alarming point that workers threw stones at a Corepsa technician on 13 February in an effort to prevent him from working.

Mines and Energy Minister Juan Camilo Restrepo, you are going to head the Corepsa board meeting here in Barranquilla on 14 February. What measures will be taken to ensure that electrical services will continue in the Atlantic area? Good morning.

[Begin Camilo recording] Good morning. Evidently, as has been explained during the course of the interview, the situation is at a very delicate stage. It is very delicate, but not because there has not been any effort to initiate a dialogue to solve the labor conflict peacefully. This is not the case. The problem has been amply discussed with union representatives. On the other hand, guidelines on how a list of specifications are to be presented during negotiations have always been very clear. The main objective is that everything should lead to peaceful and civilized negotiation, which takes into account the fact that collective bargaining has ended. [end recording]

That was what the mines and energy minister told Radio Caracol his opinion was on 13 February. What is the situation on 14 February, Minister Camilo? Good morning.

[Camilo] Good morning. Well, as has been explained, the situation continues to be delicate. It continues to be delicate, not because there has not been any good will to negotiate or because of lack of legal instruments to solve the labor conflict currently taking place in the electrical sector. The government has spoken quite openly with union representatives. In addition, there has been unrestricted access to legal resources that would enable negotiations through collective bargaining. What is really taking place is that they insist on negotiating a list of specifications using thoroughly illegal mechanisms. Furthermore, they pretend it is their right to suspend electrical service, thereby breaking every type of judicial and legal norm. No person has the right to suspend electrical services, either totally or partially, because it is an essential public service. Whoever decides to do that is breaking the law and can be penalized according to the law. As I said before, the situation is quite delicate. I can explain [words indistinct].

We have not announced that maintenance will be discontinued in the Atlantic Coast. It is just that no maintenance has been done for the past 15 days. Technically speaking, the thermal plants located in the Atlantic Coast are very delicate and need constant and permanent maintenance. As the Corepsa officer who just spoke has indicated, at any moment one of these plants will just stop functioning. All of this is taking place when the capacity of the reservoirs in the country's interior are very low because of the dry summer. The system used in this area is hydraulic instead of thermal. Therefore, this is the time the country needs the thermal system in the Atlantic Coast to be operating efficiently in order to avoid rationing of electricity.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, you have said something that is very frightening. Please explain it again. If the generating system in the Atlantic Coast is not operating, would this result in rationing of electricity in the rest of the country?

[Camilo] That is correct. Please allow me to elaborate. Summer has been surprisingly severe in Colombia this year. As a result, the reservoirs from which the country's hydroelectric system obtains its water supply are now at

the lowest point recorded in recent years. I can mention, as an example, the Guatape electrical plant. Thus, if operations in the coastal region shut down as a result of this illegal and unjust strike, electricity could be rationed in the Atlantic region and throughout the country. I must, therefore, request moderation and good sense from the industrial sector.

Minister on Labor Situation

PA1502180992 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Interview with Labor and Social Security Minister Francisco Posada de la Pena by unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] A very complex and complicated labor situation is developing in the country. Thousands of consumers, thousands of Colombians, are being affected. We now welcome Minister of Labor Francisco Posada de la Pena.

What is the government going to do, in view of the steps taken by more than 30,000 employees of the 27 national power companies and the stand taken by a large number of union leaders and workers at four important banking institutions?

[Posada] As you have said, the labor situation is truly complicated at this time. I would like to make one thing clear. The conflict in the energy sector is due to the union leaders intention to discuss only one list of demands with the government, ignoring the law stating that each union must present its list to the corresponding power company. As you know, about seven power companies are legally registered to work independently throughout the country, and where the economic conditions are very different. This hurts not only the customers, but especially the workers, who are the foundation of their union. By refusing to discuss the other lists, no agreements have been reached with those power plants and no group contracts have been signed. The 27 previous contracts are still in effect, and the workers have not received the wage increases or any of the other achievements resulting from those contracts. Also, there is...

[Reporter, interrupting] Mr. Minister....

[Posada] Excuse me, Dario, let me just finish this statement. The workers have refused to perform maintenance work and that worries me very much. As the minister of mines and energy has said, many units are going to be taken out of service, particularly on the Atlantic coast. If they do this, they will be causing serious problems for the community in general, not just the power companies. Therefore, I call on them to reconsider, so they do not continue to cause such damage to the community and to their own workers.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, if there are 27 power companies, 27 unions, and thus 27 group contracts, we cannot understand why they are seeking one discussion and one list of demands, especially when many of these contracts are still in effect. Is there a motive of political subversion behind all this, as we come closer to elections?

[Posada] Well, you are insinuating that possibility. It is true, as you have just said, that many of those contracts are still in effect. It is a judicial impossibility to merge these demands. There is, then, a hidden reason in all of this. And I must repeat that the situation is very serious due to the lack of maintenance, which will cause several units to be taken off-line. That is what is going on with the electricity sector. You also mentioned that there are problems in several banks.

[Reporter] Yes, I did, but before we finish with the power issue, Mr. Minister, let me ask: If a paralysis should occur due to the lack of maintenance, particularly on the Atlantic coast you mentioned before, is the government ready to tend to the plants and guarantee service? Or would the crisis and the power outages become a reality?

[Posada] Of course, if several plants are taken out of service due to maintenance problems or damage, there will obviously be immediate and serious problems, as it is very difficult to get the plants working again. It would be better if you asked the minister of energy and mines about those technical issues.

[Reporter] Very well. From a legal or judicial point of view, is the ministry ready to cancel the legal standing of the unions, whose group contracts are still in effect and who are now seeking to discuss a single list of demands?

[Posada] In accordance with the provisions of the new constitution, the administrative authorities are no longer able to decide on cancellations or dissolutions. They are now a responsibility of the Labor Ministry. Allow me to say that the ministry has taken those measures it is authorized by law to take.

[Reporter] What measures are those?

[Posada] For one, it has convened the arbitration courts. Based on the power laws, that describe the time allotted for direct talks, it convened the courts in order to deal with a case involving several power plants. Then, once we presented the petitions on the illegality of the strikes that have already been called, the ministry proceeded to issue the corresponding resolutions. These resolutions allow the power company managers to establish or to take the disciplinary measures that they see fit and that are necessary in order to restore normal conditions.

[Reporter] According to the reports you have, how many electrical workers have been fired from these 27 companies to date?

[Posada] I do not have any reports of firings, and that is the truth. We have held negotiations during the week, and we have made the proper notifications according to legal procedures. I hope the plant managers will take the necessary steps in order to establish the appropriate sanctions and to punish those responsible for these abnormal situations.

[Reporter] Mr. Posada de La Pena, moving on now, specifically to the banking sector. What is the conflict? What is the cause, and what are the possible solutions? Will this conflict continue indefinitely?

[Posada] In the banking sector, Banco de Colombia, Banco Cafetero and Banco Popular are currently negotiating their list of demands. The Bank of the Republic is also negotiating its demands. This is a normal process, and the workers have the right to present their list of demands. The Constitution guarantees freedom to hold collective negotiations. If management and the workers cannot agree on the list of demands, and given that banking is a public service, we must then convene the arbitration courts, which are mandatory in this case.

[Reporter] At this time, we are aware that many offices and subsidiaries of the banks you have mentioned have been blocked, and their customers cannot use their services. Is that not a violation of the Constitution? Can you use law enforcement measures to protect the rights of the customers?

[Posada] What you have said is obviously true. They have taken action, and they are not complying with the ministry's resolutions on convening the arbitration courts, except the Bank of the Republic. The union there has respectfully and responsibly complied with the resolution. The other banks have not. Now, they argue that the new constitutional provision allows the workers in nonessential public services to strike. But the ministry has the [words indistinct] upheld by a Bogota District Court ruling that did not admit an appeal action in that sense. Since the Constitution guarantees the right to strike—except in the companies providing essential public services, as determined by the legislature—we have to wait for the law to establish which are essential services, so that the nonessential companies may be allowed to strike.

In this case, because a law has not been handed down—as everyone knows, Congress has yet not established the commissions for the various projects—the ministry must therefore comply with the rulings of Decree No. 15-53 of 1959. This decree, which was issued during the administration of Alberto Lleras Camargo, clearly states that the banking institutions are a public service. This is why the ministry is proceeding in this manner. As a result, we have declared illegal several strikes that were confirmed in recent weeks. This is why the managers of those banking institutions are authorized to dismiss personnel. I understand these dismissals have already taken place in some banks.

The managers have also begun to order the removal of persons who are preventing workers from entering their workplaces, because not all of the workers are on strike. Several managers have also pointed out to me that certain union leaders and employees from other institutions are blocking the bank entrances and preventing customers from entering. They are, therefore, disrupting the community. This is now a problem of public order. It is now the police authorities who have to remove the workers so services can be provided as usual.

[Reporter] Thank you for your statements to Caracol on the complicated labor situation in the energy and banking sectors.

Conservative Party Leader Murdered in Medellin

PA1802010692 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Mrs. Villamil Aguilar de Medina, a former senator from Antioquia Department, was murdered this afternoon in Medellin.

Mrs. Aguilar de Medina had also been mayor of Itagui and an Antioquia Department deputy from the Social Conservative Party. Currently, she had been campaigning for a post in the Antioquia Department Assembly.

FARC Says Duran 'Will Be Released Soon'

PA1502144092 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Feb 92 p 8A

[Text] Cucuta—The 33d Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has stated that former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero, who was kidnapped on 26 February, is being held hostage and that his life will be respected. A communique delivered to the media in Cucuta said Duran is in good health and will be released soon.

FARC also said Miguel Angel Ortiz and Alfonso Sanchez, Agrarian Board officials kidnapped last week during a robbery at the bank branch in Hacari (Norte de Santander Department), would be released any minute.

Duran was kidnapped at the home of Ivan Enrique Cabrales Angarita in Ocana (Norte de Santander Department) by five armed men who identified themselves as members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB).

The CNGSB also said Alfonso Chamie Mazilli, director of the Autonomous Northeastern Border Corporation (Corponor), is being held hostage and his life will also be respected.

The FARC communique has settled doubts about the identity of the kidnappers. It was initially believed that Duran, a presidential commissioner for Colombian-Venezuelan border issues, had been kidnapped by the Armando Cacua Front of the Army of National Liberation (ELN). Later, the crime was said to have been perpetrated by the Libardo Mora Toro Front of the Popular Liberation Army (EPL).

Duran, a 71-year-old conservative leader, arrived in Ocana, his hometown, to verify the construction of several community projects partially financed with funds collected during his last term as senator. He inspected the work being done. He was taken by force

from Cabrales' home at 2045, when everyone was preparing to have dinner and his visit was about to end.

Cabrales, who was also kidnapped, was released early the next day. The kidnappers told him the former public works minister would be held hostage by the EPL. The confusion increased eight days ago, however, when the ELN issued a communique denying participation in the kidnapping.

Government Issues Decree on Venezuelan Trade

PA1602131192 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 Feb 92 p 8A

[Text] The national government issued Decree 255 on 12 February defining the tariffs on imports and unifying the tariff structure with Venezuela within the framework of the agreements between the countries. Now that the decree has been issued, the import trade situation has been clarified. The situation had paralyzed all purchases abroad.

The decree modifies the tariffs on 2,200 of the 6,700 articles that make up the national tariff code. The new structure applies four predetermined percentages—5 percent, 10 percent, 15 percent, and 20 percent—in accordance with the product's complexity.

The most important changes are related to the standardization of tariffs under the so-called "tariff strips" that are applicable to some agricultural products and that are now fixed between 15 and 20 percent. Another important change is the adoption of fixed tariffs for iron, steel, machine metal, and petrochemical products. The tariff applicable to capital goods and raw materials that are not produced in the Andean subregion was fixed at 5 percent.

The general average tariff was set at 11.7 percent, and the tariff for local production was set at 15 percent. The average effective protection rate is 20.4 percent, and it is 29 percent for local protection.

The decree sets the tariff for imported capital goods and raw materials at 5 percent, now the base of the tariff structure. This base was fixed taking into account Colombia's fiscal policies. It will only be possible to modify it in accordance with the negotiation procedures at the Andean Group.

Economic Development Minister Jorge Ospina Sardi announced the decree on 12 February and said it is a clear signal to the private sectors of Colombia and Venezuela, indicating the economic integration process continues. Ospina said the decision does not limit the entry of other members of the Cartagena Agreement to the trade agreement.

Asked whether the issued tariffs are a problem for national production, he said the government does not intend to "abandon" national industry to face foreign competition and that a number of measures have been issued to stimulate it.

Ospina stated the economic opening process implies sacrifices and efforts by industries and businessmen, "which I am sure are being made, just as they said in their conversations with the IMF director."

Justice Minister on U.S. Drug Cooperation

PA1502190092 Santa Fe de Bogota EL NUEVO SIGLO in Spanish 11 Feb 92 p 7A

[Text] The U.S. Government has informed Colombia it will provide, without any obstacles, all the information it has on drug traffickers who accept the Colombian Government plan to reduce their sentences and not to extradite them.

Justice Minister Fernando Carrillo Florez made the announcement on 10 February upon returning from Washington, where he met with high level officials in the U.S. Department of State, the DEA, and the Justice Department.

The justice minister said "Cooperation agreements with the United States reached a stalemate, apparently because of a lack of knowledge of the changes taking place in Colombian legislation."

"Now," he said, "there are no more stumbling blocks preventing U.S. authorities from sending evidence to Colombia on drug traffickers who are in the hands of justice."

The official described his talks with U.S. officials as successful, which is why U.S. authorities will provide the evidence to try the offenders. Carrillo Florez said that in a few days U.S. authorities will send documented evidence to be annexed to the criminal charges being prepared to try drug traffickers who are held in a maximum security prison in Antioquia Department.

The official added that U.S. justice officials seemed pleased by the indictment filed against a Colombian drug trafficker who agreed to be tried under the country's new legislation.

Peru

Response to Shining Path Strike Call Reported

Prime Minister Makes Statement

PA1402154192 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Traffic in the northern zone of the city was scarce in the early morning hours. Although some Enatru [National Urban Transport Enterprise] buses and private vehicles are providing transportation services, there is a shortage of public transportation at this time, when workers are trying to get to their workplaces.

We remind everyone that workers have been authorized to arrive two hours late to work. Both the National Police and Army troops are patrolling the streets. [passage omitted]

Here is a statement by Prime Minister Alfonso de los Heros:

[Begin De los Heros recording] We have taken and continue to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of the people. Now more than ever, the people must feel calm and safe. They must know that the government, as the state, and the Armed Forces, as part of the state, are guaranteeing their safety.

On 13 February, I issued a communique through the Labor Ministry to remind the people and workers that, in case they have any problem with transportation, Decree 031 of 1990 establishes that they are authorized to arrive two hours late to work. I am also saying, and I want to repeat this because I said this earlier in the final part of a statement, that people should be advised that, in accordance with Articles 73 and 76 of the Constitution, all citizens are obligated to foster general welfare through employment and to defend and protect national interests. What better national interest is there than to work to overcome the crisis we are experiencing? [end recording]

Strike Complete 'Failure'

PA1402192592 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Alfonso de los Heros, labor minister and president of the Council of Ministers, has said that the so-called strike failed because of the decision by the workers to set an example of civic courage.

[Begin De los Heros recording, in progress] ...I announced that a communique was issued, expanding the hours workers have to report to work and mentioning the need for all of us to defend the nation because we must abide by the Constitution. We cannot let a handful of misfits rule a city this way. That is why I think the strike was not successful at all. However, transportation constitutes a vital element. Many drivers, especially bus owners, understandably chose not to go out until a little later. They wanted to make sure that things were normal. Nothing happened, and the strike really was a failure. I think the people have shown civic courage by coming out of their homes, walking, waiting for a bus, or any other means of transportation to go to work. This is very important. [end recording]

Osterling: People Reject Strike

PA1402224692 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Report by Eduardo Lindo]

[Text] Senate President Felipe Osterling Parodi said the population in Lima rejected the so-called armed strike and went to work despite transportation problems. This is the time for more work, not strikes, and much less for armed strikes, he stressed. Regarding the country's peace efforts, he said they must be led by President Alberto Fujimori.

[Begin recording] [Osterling] The people of Lima have rejected the so-called armed strike and have turned out for work in force. I realize many people are having difficulties reaching work due to the circumstances and to the lack of transportation. I understand why a small businessmen who owns a microbus or a car would be afraid to move about, as he must protect the tool in which he has invested all his capital. However, in general, the Peruvian people have gone to work and have rejected the so-called armed strike.

[Lindo] Do you think the government has adopted measures to coordinate its antisubversive strategy with the participation of the population in general?

[Osterling] No, I do not think so. I think we have advanced slowly with the peace efforts, although the government may feel otherwise. That is why I have urged President Fujimori to lead the struggle against subversion. It is the worst scourge currently affecting Peru, and the president must lead the struggle. [end recording]

Osterling had favorable comments on the visit to our country by IMF Executive Director Michel Camdessus. He agreed on the need to improve tax collection and accelerate the privatization process in state-run companies. However, he disagreed with the IMF director's statement that there is no recession in the country. Osterling Parodi said there is a recession, because there is no economic growth. He noted several companies are facing serious financial problems and are on the verge of bankruptcy. He said the country's unemployment and underemployment rates remain high.

Regarding President Alberto Fujimori's proposal to amend the tax code, he said the current system already punishes tax evasion. The draft bill to be presented to Congress by the executive branch will be well-received.

Moyano Assassinated for Opposing Shining Path

PA1602041492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0322 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Lima, 15 Feb (EFE)—The lieutenant mayor of the densely populated Villa El Salvador neighborhood in Lima, Maria Elena Moyano, called "Mother Courage" for her "courageous stand against terrorism," was assassinated in an explosion on 15 February, police sources have confirmed.

Moyano, 33, was hit full force by the explosion of a dynamite bomb in a community center at Villa El Salvador; her body was ripped apart completely, the sources added. The explosion injured six others, including a police officer who escorted Moyano, given the constant death threats issued against her by the Maoist Shining Path terrorist group.

Moyano died barely one week before leaving for Spain, along with her two children, with a work contract from the nongovernment "INTERMON" organization, to

share her experience in community development. Nevertheless, according to sources, the trip to Spain was virtually a temporary haven due to the death threats.

Peruvian popular and socialist leaders have become Shining Path's favorite targets in recent months, in an apparent effort to preclude peaceful alternatives to community development, according to Peruvian experts.

Moyano, elected lieutenant mayor for the United Left coalition in the 1989 elections, was an influential popular leader in Villa El Salvador, a densely populated neighborhood of approximately 300,000 inhabitants that had gained fame worldwide due to its experience as a model in community self-support.

Moyano was one of two Villa El Salvador leaders who received the Prince of Asturias Prize for Harmony at Spain in 1987. The award was granted to the self-supporting community, which emerged from a sand pit on the outskirts of Lima in 1971.

Miguel Azcueta, a Hispanic-Peruvian popular leader, who was mayor of Villa El Salvador, and is currently a councilman in Lima, said that Moyano was assassinated for her determined stand against the Shining Path.

"Villa El Salvador is a fantasy for young towns (low-income housing areas); Shining Path wants to eliminate all that," stated Azcueta, whose house was attacked with explosives on 14 February, during the "armed strike" decreed by the terrorist group.

Police Capture 'Terrorists' Following Bombing

PA1502025792 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0107 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Three policemen died and 11 were injured when a bomb exploded as a National Police vehicle was passing by. The attack, perpetrated in the early morning hours at km 14 of Tupac Amaru Avenue in Comas, represents one of the worst attacks perpetrated on 14 February. In addition, the police arrested three terrorists carrying 150 kg of dynamite near the site of the attack.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] The National Police have prevented the media from approaching the area. Tension and nervousness prevails in the zone, given the death of several policemen. Parts of the vehicle are being removed by police forces. One of the dead policemen can be seen in a ditch. The National Police have not confirmed the number of policemen that have died. One of the injured, still carrying his regulation weapon, is in critical condition. [shouts and sirens heard in the background]

The police deployment following the subversive attack resulted in the arrest of three terrorists at km 18.5 [as received] of Tupac Amaru Avenue. The three persons had plans to perpetrate, in collusion with others, a similar attack on the police reinforcements sent to the zone. Two men and a woman, including a systems engineer, were caught at 0530 as they were camouflaging an explosive device in the middle of the street. The authorities seized approximately 150 kg of a chemical compound called gelignite, fuses, and all the material needed to cause an explosion six times more powerful than the one 30 minutes earlier. [end recording]

Garcia Elected APRA Secretary General 15 Feb

PA1602191292 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television in Spanish 1400 GMT 16 Feb 92

[From the "Political Radar" segment of the "Counterpoint" program]

[Text] As we predicted, Alan Garcia got away with it. On 15 February, he was elected as the new secretary general of his party by 100 percent of the full-fledged delegates at Gran Chimu Stadium in Trujillo.

Luis Alva Castro, who reportedly had the party's support, failed to show up at the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] congress. He was not seen anywhere. In reality, Alan Garcia became secretary general at 0200 on 14 February, when the Electoral Committee decided to accept by decree that the former president assume the post of secretary general. Consequently, the Electoral Committee invited him to Trujillo.

Alan Garcia traveled to Trujillo in a private airplane, arriving at 1700 on 16 February. Later, he went to the stadium—which was filled with congressmen and APRA supporters—where he was officially proclaimed secretary general at 1800.

So it will not be necessary to go to the ballot. That is left to the election of the other members of the APRA National Executive Committee. Mercedes Cabanillas was nominated for the post of deputy secretary general. Alva supporters such as poet and deputy Alberto Valencia and Freddy Gilardi had no choice but to stand up and support Alan Garcia.

This news caused concern among businessmen, given Garcia's statist inclination and particularly his firm ideas to deliver the private banks to the government bureaucracy. The country's long-term investments will surely be reprogrammed because the inevitable presidential candidacy of Alan Garcia sheds doubt on Peru's political horizon.

Turns Down Post

PA1602233792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2046 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Lima, 16 Feb (EFE)—On 16 February, former Peruvian President Alan Garcia turned down the post of secretary general of the American Revolutionary Popular Alliance [APRA], to which he was elected by acclamation on 15 February.

Garcia's decision was announced in a letter sent to the board of directors of the APRA congress being held in

the city of Trujillo, 570 km north of Lima. The letter was published by newspapers on 16 February.

Explaining his rejection, Garcia argues that the party congress refused to hear his request to consider leaders and parliamentarians, "whose contribution is valuable," for members of the national executive council of this center-leftist party. According to political observers, Garcia was referring to persons of his own circle.

Carlos Enrique Melgar, president of the organizing committee of the party congress, said that he personally "deplored" what had happened "because the party just cannot afford such luxuries." Melgar told the newspapers that the organizers of the Trujillo congress had received Garcia's letter and that, according to the party statutes, he would convene a plenary to decide "what is best" with regard to the rejection.

Garcia, a senator for life who ruled Peru from 1985 to 1990, was APRA secretary general from 1982 until he was elected president in 1985. Last week, the 42-year-old politician announced that he had resigned the post of secretary general, in which he ran with Luis Alva Castro, who was running for reelection "to keep the party united." He was elected during the Trujillo congress despite his announcement.

Fujimori on Visit by IMF Director, Tax Issues

PA1602201592 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television in Spanish 1400 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Interview with President Alberto Fujimori by unidentified reporter; place and date not given; on the "Counterpoint" program—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] IMF Director Michel Camdessus visited the country this week. He came personally to gauge the progress of the government's economic program. This week, on the domestic front, the problems that affect the population of not only Lima but other important cities such as Trujillo worsened, including lack of potable water and constant power outages. We will discuss these and other current issues with President Alberto Fujimori.

Mr. President, good morning.

[Fujimori] Good morning.

[Reporter] In his short visit, Mr. Camdessus practically mentioned that the cornerstone to a solution of the country's economic problems lays in tax collection. He shares the opinion of government economic spokesmen. What the population fears is that, when there is talk about modernizing tax collection, there is talk about increasing taxes and affecting the economy.

[Fujimori] Before answering your question, allow me to refer to the visit by Mr. Camdessus. I consider this visit a privilege for Peru, because we all know the world demand for IMF support. Even the Soviet Union and the former communist countries are requesting IMF support.

The visit by Mr. Camdessus—which I consider a privilege—was very important. He pledged to support the economic program so that it will not fail. Evidently, certain conditions are required for the plan to be successful. But the most important thing is what we have always stressed, namely budget equilibrium and higher tax collection. The majority of people supports this.

This in no way means that higher tax collection will translate into higher taxes for the people. This is a fallacy and demagoguery of traditional politics. Quite the contrary, taxes will be collected from those who generate wealth and are capable of paying taxes. This will permit us to have enough resources for the majority of people who do not have minimum social facilities.

[Reporter] But there has been talk about taxes on property, which is a concern of businessmen.

[Fujimori] Yes, yes. This tax has been established at 2 percent of assets. It is important because, for instance, many businessmen traditionally bought family cars as if they were company cars. This transaction was registered as an expenditure of the company, which consequently paid less tax to the government. This is an elegant way of tax evasion. What is the president proposing? Since this mechanism exists, we propose to tax company property instead.

[Reporter] Without giving any consideration to if the company is broke or going under?

[Fujimori] In that case, there is a discount mechanism that can be applied. In other words, this tax creates a balance that can be rationally applied. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Government Rejects Rumors of Destabilization

PA1402184992 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The government has rejected the rumors campaign aimed at destabilizing the institutions. Regarding this, Angel Zambrano, deputy minister of the interior, pointed out that the nation has progressively returned to its normal activities in both the economic and social areas. He added that the nation has not been affected by the state of emergency decreed by the government.

Zambrano said the return of six million students to schools is proof of this. He said that it is necessary to warn the population about the rumors campaign initiated by those who, without any justification, spread anxiety and worry to our homes.

According to Zambrano, presently, a code of conduct for the most civilized norms of coexistence should be adopted, and confidence in the normal development of activities in the country should be expressed. He also

said the Interior Ministry is capable of responding to the misinformation of public opinion that is aimed at alarming the population.

Zambrano added that investigations are underway to determine the truth concerning the 4 February events, always in strict compliance with the law and guaranteeing the rigorous application of justice.

Constitutional Guarantees Partially Reinstated

PA1802012492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] On the morning of 17 February, the Council of Ministers approved a decree whereby constitutional guarantees are partially reinstated. The decree is published in the 17 February gazette.

As we anticipated on 13 February, the Council of Ministers met this weekend and decided to reinstate some of the constitutional guarantees that were suspended in the wake of the thwarted military coup.

At the end of the Economic Cabinet meeting held at the Miraflores Palace on 17 February, Andres Eloy Blanco, minister of the Central Office of Information [OCI], said that three constitutional guarantees will be reinstated through an official decree to be published in the gazette.

[Begin Blanco recording] The guarantees reinstated are contained in Articles 64, 66, and 92. They are the guarantee of the freedom of transit throughout national territory; the guarantee of freedom of speech; and the guarantee of the right to strike. [end recording]

Still pending reinstatement in the coming days are the constitutional guarantees that establish the inviolability of the home, personal freedom, and the freedom to hold meetings.

OCI Minister Andres Eloy Blanco denied press reports that the national government has charged national and international private businesses with conducting polls to determine the situation in the country in the wake of the attempted military coup.

CNP, SNTP Agree on Work Stoppage for 25 Feb

PA1802014592 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The National College of Journalists [CNP] and the National Trade Union of Press Workers [SNTP] agreed today on a work stoppage effective 25 February. With this unanimous decision, the leaders of the two organizations and the CNP regional secretaries favor freedom of speech and the resumption of debate on amending the law governing professional journalism and oppose censorship and self-imposed censorship. Santiago Betancur Infante, CNP president, and Jesus Perez, SNTP secretary, announced the decision.

[Begin recording] [Perez] According to the resolution, this work stoppage will be effective 25 February, whether constitutional rights are restored or not. The CNP is defending the interests of Venezuelan civilian society.

[Betancur] Our's are very specific points: the defense of democracy; the physical integrity of press workers; freedom of speech; and opposition to self-censorship. [end recording]

Opposition Criticizes Perez, Supports Democracy

PA1402162292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Speech by Eduardo Fernandez, secretary general of the Committee of Independent Political Electoral Organization, at the Eurobuilding Hotel in Caracas—live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ....they promise bread, but they ruin the economy. They promise national dignity, but they humiliate the citizens. They promise equality, but they crush liberty and deny justice.

This time democracy survived, but we would not be sensible if we did not heed the warning and struggle sincerely for the changes the country demands, the changes the people demand.

Let us not fool ourselves about the threat. Freedom and the possibility of making changes through ideas and programs were in jeopardy. They tried to impose a regime of force on us. That is not the path chosen by our people, even though it is true that the people demand a radical change in the country's leadership. That change cannot be a jump into an abyss, nor can the change ever be made at the price of sacrificing liberty and the Constitution.

There are no valid excuses, justifications, or explanations for an attempt to use force to destroy a democratically elected government.

I say this with the authority I have for being the Venezuelan who did the most to prevent the country from electing the current president of the Republic. While some, who now criticize the government and even make justifications for the coupists, were indifferent or even favored the election of Carlos Andres Perez, I did everything humanly and democratically possible to keep him from being reelected president of the country.

One thing must be very clear, however: I defend and will continue to defend the Constitution, democracy, liberty, justice, and the right of the Venezuelan people to solve their problems in a civilized manner. [Applause]

I have been and will continue to be an open critic of the current government's erroneous policies. I have never ceased my opposition activities, but I definitely do not want to see my country regress to the primitive ways of dictatorships and governments imposed by force.

I oppose the government's economic package, because no economic plan can be morally justified if it causes the

impoverishment of the people. The economy must serve the people, each Venezuelan, every single Venezuelan. It must contribute to making everyone feel stimulated to produce more and to improve themselves morally, intellectually, physically, and materially.

Economy cannot serve theories, but men and women made of flesh and bone. The price of the adjustments has been paid by the masses, the middle class, the workers, the weaker people, and the vast productive sectors that depend on the internal market, which was set aside without a substitute.

The government has benefited from devaluations that have filled its accounts with easy and artificial money, which has worsened our affliction instead of healed our economy. The country demands solutions and its right to conquer a better future.